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San Francisco Public Library Commission
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NOTICE OF MEETING

A regular meeting of the San Francisco Public Library Commission will be held as follows:

DATE: Thursday, September 4, 2003

TIME: 4:00 PM

PLACE: Koret Auditorium, Main Library, lower level

The meeting will be called to order.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

ACTION

Presentation of, discussion of, and possible action to approve the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of June 5, 2003.

Explanatory document: draft Minutes

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

ACTION

Presentation of, discussion of, and possible action to approve the Minutes of the special Commission meeting of June 26, 2003.

Explanatory document: draft Minutes

3. CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT by City Librarian Susan Hildreth

DISCUSSION

(This item is to allow the City Librarian to report on recent Library activities and make announcements)

The City Librarian will report on the following subjects: a Millennium update; a Ocean View Branch art report; an update on the Glen Park Marketplace, and exhibits and programs

4. AFFINITY CENTERS UPDATE REPORT

DISCUSSION

Presentation of and discussion of reports concerning the activities of the Steve Silver and Wallace Stegner Affinity Centers.

5. LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN 2003/06

ACTION

Presentation and discussion of and possible action to approve a proposed 2003/06 Strategic Plan for the Library.

Explanatory document: 2003/06 Strategic Plan

6. GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY

DISCUSSION

Presentation of and discussion of a proposed Gift Recognition Policy.

Explanatory document: draft Gift Recognition Policy

7. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT

DISCUSSION

(This item is to allow the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library to inform the Commission of their current and proposed activities.)

8. LABOR UNION REPORT

(This item is to allow members of library labor organizations to report on employee matters within the Commission's purview as well as to suggest new agenda items for the Library Commission's consideration.)

Willie L. Brown, Jr
Mayor

Charles A. Higuera, III
President

Carol Steiman
Vice President

Helen Marte Bautista

Lonnie K. Chin
Steven A. Coulter
Fran A. Streets
Deborah Strobin
Commissioners

Susan Hildreth
City Librarian

Michael Housh
Commission Secretary



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION - ACCESSIBLE MEETINGS POLICY

To ensure the participation of the disabled public in all Commission public meetings, the following items concerning accessibility will be available:

Sign Language interpreters or note takers will be available upon request. Please contact Services for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired at 415/557-4433 (TDD) or 415/557-4434 (Voice) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

A sound enhancement system will be available upon request at the meetings. Please contact Services for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired at 415/557-4433 (TDD) or 415/557-4434 (Voice) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Late requests will be honored if possible.

A person who is deaf or hearing impaired may gain meeting information prior to the meeting by calling 415/557-4433 (TDD) or 415/557-4434 (Voice). In addition, the California Relay Service can be used by individuals with hearing and speech impairments by calling 1-800/735-2929 (TDD) or 1-800/735-2992 (Voice).

Minutes of the meetings are available in alternative formats. If you require the use of a reader during the meeting, please contact the Library for the Blind and Print Handicapped at 415/557-4253 at least 48 hours in advance of the need.

Individuals with severe allergies, environmental illness, multiple chemical sensitivity or related disabilities should call the accessibility hotline at 415/554-8925 to discuss meeting accessibility. In order to assist San Francisco's efforts to accommodate such people, attendees at public meetings are reminded that other attendees may be sensitive to various chemical-based products. Please help the City to accommodate these individuals.

Library Commission meetings will be held at the Main Library, 100 Larkin Street at Grove, Lower Level, Koret Auditorium, except when otherwise noticed. The Commission meeting room is wheelchair accessible.

The closest accessible BART station is Civic Center. The accessible MUNI line serving this location is the #19 Polk. For information about Muni's accessible service, please call 415/923-6142. There is accessible parking available at 355 McAllister, Civic Center Plaza Garage. Call 415/863-1537. Accessible seating for persons with disabilities (including those using wheelchairs) will be available at meetings. The ringing of and use of cell phones, pagers and similar sound-producing electronic devices are prohibited at this meeting. Please be advised that the Chair may order the removal from the meeting room of any person(s) responsible for the ringing or use of a cell phone, pager, or other similar sound producing electronic devices.

Know Your Rights Under The Sunshine Ordinance

Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public. Commissions, boards, councils and other agencies of the City and County exist to conduct the people's business. This ordinance assures that deliberations are conducted before the people and that City operations are open to the people's review.

For more information on your rights under the Sunshine Ordinance (Chapter 67 of the San Francisco Administrative Code) or to report a violation of the ordinance, contact Donna Hall, Administrator, the Sunshine Ordinance Task Force, City Hall, Room 244 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689 or at 415/554-7724 ph. 415/554-5163 FAX and website at Donna_Hall@ci.sf.ca.us. Copies of the Sunshine Ordinance can be obtained from the Clerk of the Sunshine Task Force, the San Francisco Public Library and on the City's website at www.ci.sf.ca.us/bdsupvrs/sunshine.

San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance

Attention: Individuals and entities that influence or attempt to influence local legislative or administrative action may be required by the San Francisco Lobbyist Ordinance [SF Admin Code secs. 16.520 - 16.534] to register and report lobbying activity. For more information about the Lobbyist Ordinance, please contact the Ethics Commission at 1390 Market Street #701, San Francisco, CA 94102, telephone (415) 554-9510, fax (415) 703-0121 and web site <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/ethics/>.

Michael Housh, Commission Secretary 1/21/03



9. NEW BUSINESS

(This item is to allow Commissioners to introduce new agenda items for consideration.)

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

(This item is to allow members of the public to comment generally on matters within the Commission's purview as well as to suggest new agenda items for the Library Commission's consideration.)

11. CLOSED SESSION

ACTION

EXISTING LITIGATION AS DEFENDANT:

Chaffee v. Brown, et al, SF Superior Court, CGC-02-406387

1. [Convene in Closed Session]

Motion that the Library Commission assert the attorney-client privilege and convene in closed session under Government Code Section 54956.9(a) and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(d)(1) to confer with, and receive advice from the City Attorney regarding pending litigation. Discussion in open session concerning this matter would likely and unavoidably prejudice the position of the City in the pending litigation listed above.

2. [Elect to disclose or not disclose]

Motion in open session that the Commission finds it is in the public interest to disclose information discussed in closed session OR Motion that the Commission finds that it is in the best interests of the public that the Commission not disclose its closed session deliberations concerning the pending litigation listed above.

12. ADJOURNMENT (requires motion and public comment)

ACTION

8/29/03 - M.Housh, Commission Secretary

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the Commission Secretary/Custodian of Records, Main Library, 6th Floor, (2) in the rear of the Koret Auditorium immediately before and during the meeting, and (3) to the extent possible, on the Library's website at <http://sfpl.org/>.

Additional materials not listed as explanatory documents on this agenda, if any, that are distributed to the Library Commissioners prior to or during the meeting in connection with any agenda item will be available to the public for inspection and copying in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.1 and Sunshine Ordinance §§ 67.9, 67.28(b)& 67.28(d).



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

STRATEGIC PLAN

2003 – 2006

[JULY 29, 2003 DRAFT]

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

STRATEGIC PLAN 2003 – 2006

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INTRODUCTION

From its inception, the San Francisco Public Library's ability to achieve and maintain excellence and innovation has been the result of thoughtful planning focused on the needs and interests of the residents of San Francisco.

While the principles of library service are the same today as they were at the beginning of the 20th century, library services and their methods of delivery have expanded in ways unimagined by our predecessors. Libraries are changing because society, culture and the people we serve are changing. Strategic planning is what has allowed the library to manage these changes without losing sight of our values and our commitment to our community. The Strategic Plan 2003 -2006 is intended to continue to build on our past success by prioritizing and refocusing our energy and resources. Its development and implementation requires us to assess and adjust our efforts in response to a changing environment both within and outside the organization.

The San Francisco Public Library is the community's repository for books and materials about a wide variety of subjects and interests. The provision of information, in books, other print and non-print formats, or electronic form, is the primary role and service of the San Francisco Public Library. Although technology has become a significant factor in the provision of library services, it is not an end in itself. It is only one of the many means to provide information. Books and information are the heart of the library.

We are fortunate in San Francisco to have a wonderful Main Library facility that acts as the repository for all types of information and serves as a support collection for all our branches. The twenty-six branches of the Library, because of their size and community-based nature, provide books, information and recreational reading that serve the immediate needs of their users. Like the branches, the Main Library also serves a neighborhood community and provides that function primarily with services and materials in the First Stop¹ collection and the Children's Center. The roles of the Main Library and the branches complement each other and allow the Library to provide its users with information ranging from in-depth, historical treatment of subjects, to ready reference and current best-sellers. Our system is truly one library collection with twenty-seven entry points; and, with the Library's delivery system, materials move from building to building on a daily basis to satisfy the needs of library users.

The 21st century library serves as a gateway to the exciting and complex world of information. With the pervasive availability and use of the Internet, many people believe that they can serve the same function as a librarian, but librarians are trained to be information-seekers and can find answers to questions in electronic, paper or any other form. The role of the librarian is transitioning from one who provides information to users to one who serves as an information navigator or

¹ First Stop is located on the main entry floor and includes a collection of books, videos, DVD's, CD's and other materials on a variety of popular and current topics and interests.

San Francisco Public Library Strategic Plan 2003 – 2006

trainer, assisting users to effectively identify and judge the quality of the myriad of information available on the Internet today.

Although the functions of providing an exciting and balanced book collection and access to the world of information are important, the library also holds a special place in our neighborhoods as a venue for many types of public programs from story times to book groups, a gathering place for friends and neighbors, a meeting place for community groups and the repository for the history and culture of our neighborhoods. As well as serving as a destination point, the library seeks to become part of the communities we serve by reaching out to the diverse populations we serve, such as students, seniors, new immigrants, and disabled users. We hope to better meet the needs of our users by interacting with them in their own situations and going beyond the library walls to provide services.

This strategic plan was developed with input from community members and Library staff. By engaging the community in the planning process, we hope that we have produced a plan that is responsive to the needs of the community and goes beyond what the Library, without that community input, may have projected as its role in the community. By combining the knowledge and guidance of community members and the professional expertise of Library staff, we believe that we can effectively put the Library to work for the community. The San Francisco Public Library is here to meet the needs of its users and to serve as a partner with other agencies and the community at large in strengthening the quality of life in San Francisco.

MISSION

The San Francisco Public Library is dedicated to free and equal access to information, knowledge, independent learning, and the joys of reading for our diverse community.

VALUES

The values statement provides the framework that supports the planning and implementation of all the Library service responses.

- Our library users are the reason the Library exists. We provide quality service and treat all library users fairly and equally. Services are provided in a non-judgmental manner that is sensitive to, and supportive of, human differences. Our goal is always to provide excellent customer service.
- We use professional judgment, knowledge, and experience to develop and maintain collections, services and staff that respect and reflect the diversity in our city.
- We provide convenient access to facilities, resources and services that meets the needs of library users.
- We advocate for and support policies and procedures that support privacy of all library user records.² We value and provide free and equal access to all types of information.³
- Our employees are valued as individuals for their important contributions to the organization. An open exchange of ideas is encouraged throughout the library system. We encourage teamwork and collaboration. We support our staff by providing opportunities for growth and professional development.

² The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 53-03 on January 21, 2003. The San Francisco Public Library Commission passed Resolution 2/03 on February 4, 2003 protecting library users' rights to privacy and confidentiality.

³ The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 206-01 on October 1, 2001 which prohibits the use of Internet filtering or content blocking technology on City-owned computers used as public Internet access terminals.

- We are a learning organization that is not afraid to change and take appropriate risks in pursuit of meeting community needs. We constantly reassess our services and methods and attempt to see ourselves through the public's eyes.

HISTORY

The San Francisco Public Library, established in 1877, has had a fairly turbulent past, not unlike other famous institutions of our City. In 1888, the Main Library was situated in the City Hall on Marshall Square, which is the site of the current Main Library. Also, three branches were open in Mission, North Beach (now Chinatown) and Potrero Hill. In 1901, Andrew Carnegie offered the City \$750,000 to support the construction of a new Main Library and several branches. Because Carnegie was perceived as not supportive of labor, this gift created much controversy and was not granted. The Main Library and two branches were destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, although in 1907 a new Main Library opened. In 1912, the Carnegie grant again became an issue; and the acceptance of the funds was placed on the ballot and overwhelmingly approved by the voters. This led to the construction of the Main Library, now the Asian Art Museum, and five branches. The Library system is now comprised of the Main Library and twenty-six branches, with a new Mission Bay Branch slated for construction in the near future.

The Library was not well-supported by the City for many years. A bond issue for construction of a new Main Library and new branches failed in 1948, which led to enhanced grassroots efforts to increase support for the system and the creation of the Friends of the Library. Years of citizen support were behind the success in 1988 of the \$109.5 bond issue that funded the construction of the new Main Library, a magnificent, 376,000 square foot facility that opened in April 1996. Always ready for a challenge, citizens also worked to support Proposition E, a ballot initiative passed in 1994 that secured dedicated funding for the Library. Finally, in 2000, further citizen efforts resulted in the passage of the \$106 million bond issue to support the renovation of most branches and the construction of five new branches.

Planning efforts were seriously undertaken by the Library system as early as 1958 when Emerson Greenaway, director of the Free Library of Philadelphia, was retained to survey the Library system. Another planning report was commissioned in 1982 by Columbia University library expert Lowell Martin. One of the first examples of plans that incorporated the needs of the community was the plan approved by the Library Commission in 1992. In 1997, the Mayor commissioned an audit of the Library; and one of the key recommendations was the development of a strategic plan. That effort was begun in 1998 by former City Librarian Regina Minudri. The Public Library Association's *Planning for Results* model was used as a basis for that plan. A draft plan was completed in 1999; and, although never officially approved by the Library Commission, that plan has guided the work of library staff over the last several years. Currently, the Board of Supervisors requires that every City department prepare a strategic plan.⁴ Because of the City requirement and also due to the changing nature of society and new priorities for the library system, a new planning effort was begun in 2003, again based on the Public Library Association model.

⁴ Charter Section 9.114 regarding Mission Driven Budgets and Charter Section 16.120 regarding Customer Service Plans as part of Chapter 88 of the City Administrative Code.

METHODOLOGY

This Strategic Plan uses the model found in *The New Planning for Results, a Streamlined Approach* by Sandra Nelson for the Public Library Association (Chicago, American Library Association, 2001). The *New Planning for Results* was built on three basic assumptions:

1. Excellence must be defined locally – it results when library services match community needs, interests, and priorities.
2. Excellence is possible for both small and large libraries – it rests more on commitment than on unlimited resources.
3. Excellence is a moving target – even when achieved, excellence must be continually maintained.

This method acknowledges there is no national standard for exceptional library service. Just as each community is unique, each library is unique in how it may best meet the needs of its community. To this end, members of the San Francisco community and selected staff, in two separate groups, were invited to a series of meetings devoted to creating a vision of San Francisco and discuss the Library's ability to help make the vision a reality.

First the Community Planning Group⁵ was asked to define a vision of San Francisco as a place to live, work and visit. Members were asked to consider the social, economic, political, cultural and demographic make-up of the City. Next members were asked to consider the needs to be met if that vision of San Francisco were to be attained. It will come as no surprise that members desired to improve several situations such as homelessness, educational, cultural, political and socioeconomic issues encountered by residents and visitors on a daily basis. After defining these needs, members were asked to identify those issues the Library could help address.

Second, the Staff Focus Group⁶ responded to the identified needs the Library could address by reviewing all library services. With a goal of helping the community achieve its vision, the staff group reviewed services such as collections, reading spaces, facilities improvements, websites, programs and exhibits and much more. Members used this opportunity to brainstorm new services and integrate services that have long been requested by members of the public. The resulting dialogue identified three service responses that would serve as the framework for existing and upcoming library services: General Information, Lifelong Learning and Current Topics and Titles.

Out of this dialogue grew the service responses, goals, objectives, and activities presented here. The Strategic Plan confirms the community and the Library's commitment to excellent library service for all who live and work in this great City.

⁵ See Attachment A for a list of participants

⁶ See Attachment A for a list of participants

How to Use The Plan

As mentioned above, the Community Planning Group and library staff, in an ongoing dialogue, identified three service responses and community-specific goals that best meet the overall needs of the San Francisco community.⁷ The service responses, including a definition from *New Planning for Results*, and the corresponding Library goals are summarized here for quick reference:

- **General Information** - A library that offers General Information helps meet the need for information and answers to questions on a broad array of topics related to work, school, and personal life.

Goal 1: All residents of San Francisco will have questions answered on a broad array of topics related to work, school, and personal life and will have access to books, literature, research, and other library materials in a variety of formats to meet their need for information.

- **Lifelong Learning** - A library that provides Lifelong Learning service helps address the desire for self-directed personal growth and development opportunities.

Goal 2: All residents of San Francisco will have access to library services that address the need for effective skills relating to finding, evaluating, and using information in a variety of formats.

Goal 3: All residents of San Francisco who have a desire to grow and learn throughout their lives will have the support they need to fulfill their goals.

- **Current Topics and Titles** - A library that provides Current Topics and Titles helps to fulfill community residents' appetite for information about popular cultural and social trends and their desire for satisfying recreational experiences.

Goal 4: All residents of San Francisco will have ready access to current books and library materials in a variety of formats to meet their need for literature and for information about popular culture and social trends.

Goal 5: All residents of San Francisco will have access and opportunity to experience the benefits of the diverse cultural activities the City embraces.

Each service response is expanded upon in the following sections. Readers will find each response has corresponding goals, objectives and activities. Additionally, the service responses were subdivided into four resource areas:

⁷ See Attachment B for a list of all library service responses considered during this process.
San Francisco Public Library Strategic Plan 2003 – 2006

services, collections, information infrastructure and access technology, and facilities. By subdividing each service response, the groups hoped to ensure the planning activities were balanced throughout the Library so that all library services are represented.

One final note: Readers will find the order of the service responses are 1. General Information, 2. Lifelong Learning, and 3. Current Topics and Titles. This order represents the priorities identified by the planning groups. While maintaining the order to preserve the identified priorities, the plan itself strives to create three services of equal importance. This is to say, library staff will strive to treat Current Topics and Titles with the same focus and dedication as are awarded to General Information and Lifelong Learning.

GENERAL INFORMATION

*A library that offers **General Information** helps meet the need for information and answers to questions on a broad array of topics related to work, school, and personal life.*

Goal 1: All residents of San Francisco will have questions answered on a broad array of topics related to work, school, and personal life and will have access to books, literature, research, and other library materials in a variety of formats to meet their need for information.

Services

1. Develop and maintain Library programs that are community based, providing programming of interest to neighborhoods. [Goal 1]
 - 1.1 Expand adult programs and exhibits in the branches so residents may attend programs convenient to their home or work.
 - 1.1.1 Incorporate into outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
2. Reach out to targeted audiences throughout the City to inform residents about the information opportunities provided by the Library.
 - 2.1 Enhance outreach services to schools (K-12), preschools and day care centers to encourage reading and love of learning in children.
 - 2.1.1 Incorporate into outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
 - 2.2 Enhance outreach services to adults, seniors, teens, families, persons with disabilities, residents new to the country, and areas of the City identified as low income to inform residents about the information opportunities provided by the Library.
 - 2.2.1 Incorporate into outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
 - 2.3 Improve library services delivered to locations throughout the community, using the Library's bookmobiles and other mobile services that will benefit seniors, adults and children.

- 2.3.1 Incorporate into outreach strategy and Branch Library Improvement Program⁸ interim service plan to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
- 2.3.2 Incorporate advertising of library services on bookmobiles and other library and City vehicles. Incorporate into outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
- 2.3.3 Insure that mobile services are reaching new residents from other countries, economically disadvantaged people, potential users and persons with disabilities by reviewing the demographics and target clientele where visits are scheduled by 2004/05.

Collections

- 3. Improve information resources available for the general public. [Goal 1]
 - 3.1 Collect books and library materials in a variety of formats relevant to each neighborhood, reflecting the history, linguistic diversity, and cultural mosaic of the City.
 - 3.1.1 Create demographic and unique characteristics profile of users, potential users, and online users. To be implemented in 2004/2005.
 - 3.1.2 Respond to outcome of 3.1.1 with ongoing collection monitoring, adjusting purchasing priorities and funds as appropriate, providing each local library with the capability to quickly respond to changes in community needs. To be implemented in 2004/2005 and annually thereafter.
 - 3.2 Remain a state-of-the-art information center providing timely and up-to-date books and materials in the format preferred by individuals.
 - 3.2.1 Enhance professional growth opportunities for staff training to keep current and identify new trends in publishing and services. To be incorporated into annual staff training plan beginning with 2004/2005.

⁸ In November 2000, the voters of San Francisco approved Proposition A, a \$106 million bond to support the seismic, ADA, and technological renovation of nineteen branches, the construction of four new branches to replace branches currently in leased facilities and the construction of a new branch in Mission Bay.

Information Infrastructure and Access Technology

4. Improve access to information and collections by developing and maintaining a robust technological environment. [Goal 1]
 - 4.1 Install wireless capabilities in library facilities so residents may use library services with their own computing devices.
 - 4.1.1 Create a secure and robust network environment that provides for use of wireless devices by June 2005.
 - 4.1.2 Provide wired and wireless devices for in-library use, thus increasing the technological capacity for accessing library services. To be implemented in 2005/2006.
 - 4.1.3 Explore staff use of emerging technologies, such as headsets and hand-held devices, to enhance public service opportunities. Develop recommendations by January 2005.
 - 4.2 Provide remote access to library services including information resources and materials so residents may use the Library from their home or office anytime day or night.
 - 4.2.1 Continue to develop services for electronic users and potential online users by making all library services available in an electronic format. Services to include but are not limited to online library forms (homebound, library card application, suggestion form, and comment form) so that services provided within library facilities are also fully available to online users. To be completed by June 2004.
 - 4.2.2 Continue to develop the Library's website as the primary means of electronic access to information in order to ensure quick and easy retrieval of resources.

Facilities

5. Renovate facilities to reflect the unique characteristics of the neighborhoods they serve and to enhance the library as an inviting place to visit. [Goal 1]
 - 5.1 Enhance teen services, a recognized age group that is currently underserved,⁹ by creating unique physical spaces in appropriate library facilities.
 - 5.1.1 Engage the community, and particularly teens, in the local neighborhood to gather input as part of the community needs assessment for the degree of emphasis for teen services in their local library facility. To be completed prior to facility renovation.
 - 5.2 Design environments that encourage a positive physical experience to sit, read and study.
 - 5.2.1 Establish a staff task force to develop system-wide guidelines for creating a positive experience for library users across the system (coordinate with 17.2.1). Guidelines to be implemented by January 2005.
 - 5.2.2 Develop long term facility maintenance plan by November 2003 for implementation in 2004/2005.

⁹ While all library locations have recognizable areas to welcome adults and children, similar spaces for teens generally are not present. At the very age when we start losing them as readers, teens become an invisible population within the library. In order to encourage them to see the Library as relevant to their lives, it is important that we provide a setting that welcomes them and lets them know that their needs and interests are important and valued.

LIFELONG LEARNING

*A library that provides **Lifelong Learning** service helps address the desire for self-directed personal growth and development opportunities.*

Goal 2: All residents of San Francisco will have access to library services that address the need for effective skills relating to finding, evaluating, and using information in a variety of formats.

Goal 3: All residents of San Francisco who have a desire to grow and learn throughout their lives will have the support they need to fulfill their goals.

Services

6. Provide opportunities for library users to learn how to use the Library's catalog, databases, Internet resources, and to develop their research and computer skills. Emphasize responding to the needs of special population groups, as appropriate. [Goal 2; Goal 3]
 - 6.1 Ensure that persons with disabilities have easy access to information by upgrading ADA-compatible workstations as new technology becomes available, as well as designing online access to library resources for persons with disabilities.
 - 6.2 Provide focused training opportunities to support the development of technology skills of seniors to begin by June 2004 and become ongoing thereafter.
 - 6.3 Continue to train staff in instruction techniques and subject-specific topics to enable staff to provide relevant classes and one-on-one guidance to users. Enhanced training program to be incorporated into the 2004/2005 Library budget.
7. Improve collaboration and communication with educational institutions and preschools to position children and young adults for school and life success. [Goal 2]
 - 7.1 Create learning opportunities for educators and students to incorporate comprehensive instruction on using library resources, including books and materials, and in all formats.

Lifelong Learning: Services *continued*

- 7.2 Expand library outreach programs with San Francisco Unified School District to incorporate new partnerships in learning and reading among the youth in the City.
 - 7.2.1 Create cooperative agreements with key schools to more fully integrate lifelong learning opportunities for children and youth. To be completed by January 2005.
 - 7.2.2 Enrich the content of formal education by supporting class visits to library facilities as well as library staff regularly visiting classes. Outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by fiscal 2004/2005.
8. Improve programs and services for residents for whom English is not their native language. [Goal 2; Goal 3]
 - 8.1 Each library facility will develop and implement targeted programs and services to respond to the needs of residents in their neighborhood for whom English is not their native language. Outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
9. Provide opportunities for residents to attend and participate in a wide variety of library programs designed to contribute to the individual learning experience. [Goal 3]
 - 9.1 Document the history of San Francisco by expanding community history collections celebrating the uniqueness of neighborhoods. Incorporate into outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
 - 9.2 Enhance the availability of neighborhood photographic archives by digitizing the photographs and making the collections available through the Library's online catalog.
 - 9.3 Expand in-library programs and events such as book talks, book groups, story hours, literacy training, and job fairs to increase personal learning and growth opportunities for library users. Outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
 - 9.4 Enhance and maintain the depth of research collections, special collections and the Affinity Centers in the Main Library to assist researchers.
10. Continue to enhance programs that support the Library's role as a clearinghouse for cultural, educational programs, events and exhibitions. [Goal 5]

- 10.1 Ensure all residents are aware of the full array of library collections and services available by expanding the Library's outreach strategy throughout the City and in collaboration with selected partners in the community.
 - 10.1.1 Establish a staff task force to develop guidelines and specific targets for expanding outreach with a focus on reaching new residents from other countries, economically disadvantaged people, and persons with disabilities. Outreach strategy to be developed and implementation begun by 2004/2005.
 - 10.1.2 Increase representation at street fairs and other community events to encourage neighborhood involvement and to promote library services throughout each year. Incorporate into outreach strategy to be developed and implementation begun by 2004/2005.

Collections

- 11. Inspire library users and potential users with the joy of reading and learning as core values. [Goal 3]
 - 11.1 Support the individual learning experience by developing and maintaining an extensive collection of books and library materials in a variety of formats on a wide array of topics in an easily accessible manner.
 - 11.1.1 Establish collection goals to reflect the outcomes generated from 14.1.1 and ongoing community input at the local level that is included in the community needs assessment (14.1.2). To be ongoing beginning in fiscal 2004/2005.
 - 11.1.2 Enhance the collections of materials that reflect the linguistic diversity of the City, for residents of all ages. Attain overall goal of 10%¹⁰ of book and materials collection budget dedicated to books in languages other than English. Develop a strategy in 2003/2004 to reach this target in 2005/2006.
 - 11.1.3 Continue to develop access to Library website in Spanish and Chinese and plan for access in Russian, Japanese and other languages.

¹⁰ The level of funding in 2002/2003 was approximately 6% for books and library materials in non-English languages.

Information Infrastructure and Access Technology

12. Facilitate the public's ability to effectively use new materials and technologies to enhance research skills and stay abreast of trends in the delivery of information. [Goal 2]

12.1 Provide expanded technology opportunities for self-directed learning.

12.1.1 Ensure that the Library's technological infrastructure and systems support the development of a comprehensive online learning environment in a variety of subject areas and incorporating the highest attainable quality of learning aids such as online tutorials, pathfinders, webcasts, and/or web links to tutorials in a variety of subjects that will facilitate users access and learning. To begin by June 2004 and ongoing thereafter.

12.2 Expand the Library's program of instruction to include subject-specific topics.

12.2.1 Train staff in instruction techniques and subject-specific topics and provide the technological infrastructure and systems to enable staff to provide relevant classes and one-on-one guidance to users. Enhanced training program to be incorporated into the 2004/2005 Library budget.

Facilities

13. Create vibrant learning environments to encourage use of the Library as a center of learning and fostering a climate of learning and reading. [Goal 3]

13.1 Create reading areas and/or study space to increase the usability, quiet study opportunities and comfort of library facilities by the completion of the Branch Library Improvement Program.

13.1.1 Engage the community in each local neighborhood to gather input as part of the community needs assessment on optimal use of library space for reading areas and/or study space.

13.2 Create flexible Program Rooms, incorporating opportunities for learning labs and homework assistance, in at least 70% of library facilities by the completion of the Branch Library Improvement Program.

13.2.1 Engage the community in each local neighborhood to gather input as part of the community needs assessment on optimal use of library space for library programs.

CURRENT TOPICS AND TITLES

*A library that provides **Current Topics and Titles** helps to fulfill community residents' appetite for literature and information about popular cultural and social trends.*

- Goal 4:** All residents of San Francisco will have ready access to current books and library materials in a variety of formats¹¹ to meet their need for literature and for information about popular culture and social trends.
- Goal 5:** All residents of San Francisco will have access to information and the opportunity to experience through Library services the benefits of the diverse cultural activities the City embraces.

Services

14. Continue to enhance programs that support the Library's role as a clearing house for cultural, educational programs, events and exhibitions. [Goal 5]
- 14.1 Continue to partner with community, arts, educational, corporate, and cultural institutions in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Enhance the information and referral services provided by the Library about those agencies. To be completed by September 2005.
- 14.1.1 Continue to provide programs with partnering institutions such as schools, museums and the business community.
- 14.1.2 Increase the Library's visibility as a key stakeholder in the network of community, arts, educational and cultural institutions through the Library's *San Francisco Community Services Directory*¹² program.
- 14.2 Assist local residents and reach out to potential users in search of current information and events by developing and maintaining web exhibits featuring local activities, current interests and library services. To be implemented by June 2004.

¹¹ Formats include, for example, books, books on tape, DVD's, and CD's.

¹² This service, available from the Library's website, provides users with information about all San Francisco government agencies, health & human service providers, community-based organizations, museums, cultural institutions, community educational centers, neighborhood-oriented groups, and merchants' associations.

- 14.2.1 Train technology, exhibitions, and web staff in the Library's online system and web capabilities to initiate ongoing web exhibits.

Collections

- 15. Ensure availability of books and library materials in an array of formats that are requested and needed by users. [Goal 4]
 - 15.1 Solicit broad-based community input to ensure book and library materials' collections both in English and non-English languages in all facilities reflect community needs for current topics in a variety of formats and languages.
 - 15.1.1 Create a community based *Library Collection Development Advisory Committee*¹³ to facilitate communication of community needs. City Librarian to establish committee by January 2004, including stakeholders from Main Library Affinity Centers.
 - 15.1.2 Continue to gather community input at the neighborhood level on desired collections and services for each facility.
 - 15.1.3 Evaluate data annually on the use of selected collections to continue to fine tune collection needs, adjusting funding assigned to specific collection areas as appropriate.
 - 15.2 Respond to the expressed demand for book and library materials on current topics and titles.
 - 15.2.1 Institute a tracking system for reserve fulfillment to determine and improve reduction of wait time for requests of popular materials. To be established by January 2004.
 - 15.2.2 Establish library user self-service pick-up of reserve materials in selected locations by July 2004.
 - 15.2.3 Expand options for notification of reserves to include telephone notification, as well as by the current options of email or regular mail. To be completed by June 2004.
 - 15.2.4 Order more copies of popular titles in anticipation of reserve demands throughout each year.

¹³ This committee will be charged with providing meaningful input to the Library regarding the overall relevancy of book and other library collections in meeting the needs of the communities served by the Library. Composition, meeting frequency, etc to be developed as part of completion of 13.1.1 San Francisco Public Library Strategic Plan 2003 – 2006

Information Infrastructure and Access Technology

16. Provide library user self-help opportunities to facilitate ease of use of, and access to, literature and information. [Goal 4]
 - 16.1 Initiate implementation of next-generation scanning technology (also known as RFID - Radio Frequency Identification¹⁴) for books and other library materials to facilitate users self-service check out of materials, as well as to improve inventory control and loss prevention, resulting in better public service.
 - 16.1.1 Establish staff task force to research, analyze and make recommendations to Library Administration regarding RFID implementation.
 - 16.1.2 Incorporate funding for implementation as part of the 2004/2005 Library budget process. Implementation to begin in 2005/2006.
 - 16.2 Assist users in fulfilling their individual information needs by developing a *My Library*¹⁵ service for customized library services. To be implemented by September 2004.
 - 16.2.1 Continue to develop library services for electronic users who cannot or choose not to visit library buildings by making all library services available in an electronic format. Services to include but are not limited to online library forms (such as homebound, library card application, suggestion form, and comment form) in a variety of languages.
 - 16.2.2 Train technology and web staff in the Library's online system's capabilities to initiate *My Library* service.
 - 16.2.3 Develop an outreach strategy to educate library users on the use of *My Library* and implement in 2004/2005.

¹⁴ Replaces barcode or "zebra" label on books and other library materials with a chip that contains information on the item that facilitates fast and easy checkout of each item.

¹⁵ *My Library* incorporates library user flexibility and options in designing personal library accounts, such as receiving electronic recommendations for reading as new books arrive in interest areas designated by the user.

Facilities

17. Improve ability of residents to obtain books and library materials in a variety of formats in a timely manner. [Goal 4]
 - 17.1 Improve delivery of materials throughout the system so that 80%¹⁶ of items requested and available on-shelf are received within three business days at the designated pick-up location.
 - 17.1.1 Restructure delivery services to all locations to improve efficiency and reduce time needed for materials to reach their destination. Incorporate implementation as part of the 2004/2005 Library budget process.
 - 17.2 Implement collection display and organization guidelines to enhance the user experience across the library system.
 - 17.2.1 Establish a staff task force to develop system-wide guidelines for display and organization of books and other materials. Guidelines to be implemented by January 2005 (coordinate with 5.2.1).
 - 17.2.2 Create *Staff Recommends* sections in select locations, as well as virtually on the SFPL website, by January 2004.

¹⁶ Data and analysis from a 2002/2003 delivery study suggests that currently items take up to 4 to 6 days to reach their destination.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Strategic Plan 2003 – 2006 will be realized through the activities, services and resources we provide. Each library facility, program area, and staff member is charged with developing and carrying out this Strategic Plan.

The City Librarian will convene a staff task force to develop measurable results for each of the activities listed in the Strategic Plan. Measurable results will be key to knowing how well each of the objectives is met over time. Also, as called out in the Strategic Plan, additional task forces will be convened to develop system-wide guidelines to create a positive experience and environment for library users, to develop an outreach strategy to further enhance the Library's connection with the community, and to develop an implementation plan for conversion to radio-frequency identification technology. Also, a broad-based committee will be convened to provide an opportunity for a community-based discussion about the Library's collection development policies and procedures.

Resource allocation is a critical element in accomplishing this plan. Each year, as part of the annual budget process, we will return to the Strategic Plan to measure our progress toward achieving our goals, craft new efforts for the coming year, and reallocate resources as needed.

The success of the plan is strongly based upon the continued development of the knowledge, skills and abilities of all library staff, as well as insuring that the broad and rich diversity of the City in language and culture is mirrored by the Library's staff.

CONCLUSION

Throughout our history, the San Francisco Public Library has constantly updated itself to meet the evolving informational and cultural needs of the diverse community we serve. The Strategic Plan 2003 -2006 renews our commitment to excellent public library service. While providing every library facility and program with a unifying organizational vision and system-wide goals, this Strategic Plan is intended to be broad and flexible enough to tailor services to each unique neighborhood. The Strategic Plan also provides a framework to consider opportunities for new programs and services.

The best way to assure that we have an excellent library system well into the future is to continuously reinvent and revitalize ourselves, based on a good understanding of community needs and the ways in which we can respond to those needs. A library that plans makes better decisions, which leads to better library service.

For the coming three years, this plan will shape and guide what we are, what we do, and why we do it.



Attachment A

Strategic Plan Committees

Community Planning Committee

		Affiliation
Luis	Calderon	In-Home Supportive Services
Steve	Coulter	Library Commission
Alan	D'Souza	Librarian Technician, Main
Elizabeth	Genera-Juarez	Librarian Technician, San Francisco Community Database
Bill	Hollabaugh	Advisory Council on Aging
Jane	Hudson	Librarian III, Sunset Branch
John	Kenny	Librarian III, Main
Doug	King	Friends & Foundation of SFPL
Judith	Lujan	San Francisco Unified School District
Andrew	Northrop	Chamber of Commerce
Marcia	Popper	Council of Neighborhood Libraries
Carol	Steiman	Library Commission
Ron	Vinson	Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services
Joan	Walton	Council of Neighborhood Libraries
Blaine	Waterman	Librarian I, Main
Jensa	Woo	Librarian II, Potrero Branch
Norman	Yee	San Francisco Foundation
Monique	Zmuda	City & County of San Francisco Controller's Office

Staff Focus Group

Robert	Carlson	Librarian II, North Beach Branch
Carol	Coon	Librarian II, Government Information Center
Elaine	Dang	Management Assistant, Technical Services
Sharon	Dezurick	Librarian II, Glen Park Branch
Margot	Kavanagh	Librarian I, Youth Guidance Center
Joan	Lefkowitz	Media Production Specialist, Main
Betsy	Levine	Librarian I, Teen Services
Katie	Lynds	Librarian III, Chief of Branches Office
Grace	Ruth	Librarian II, Office of Children & Youth Services
Nicole	Termini	Page, Main
Elizabeth	Thacker	Librarian II, Chief of Main Office
Randy	Weaver	Senior Management Assistant, Project Read

Steering Committee

Susan	Hildreth	City Librarian
Toni	Bernardi	Chief, Office of Children & Youth Services
Roberto	Esteves	Chief, Information Resource Management
Gail	McPartland	Facilitator, Peninsula Library Services
Marcia	Schneider	Director, Public Affairs
Paul	Underwood	Deputy City Librarian



Library Service Responses presented in the
*New Planning for Results: A Streamlined Approach*¹⁷

FIGURE 9

Library Service Responses

Basic Literacy

A library that offers Basic Literacy service addresses the need to read and to perform other essential daily tasks.

Business and Career Information

A library that offers Business and Career Information service addresses a need for information related to business, careers, work, entrepreneurship, personal finances, and obtaining employment.

Commons

A library that provides a Commons environment helps address the need of people to meet and interact with others in their community and to participate in public discourse about community issues.

Community Referral

A library that offers Community Referral addresses the need for information related to services provided by community agencies and organizations.

Consumer Information

A library that provides Consumer Information service helps to satisfy the need for information to make informed consumer decisions and to help residents become more self-sufficient.

Cultural Awareness

A library that offers Cultural Awareness service helps satisfy the desire of community residents to gain an understanding of their own cultural heritage and the cultural heritage of others.

Current Topics and Titles

A library that provides Current Topics and Titles helps to fulfill community residents' appetite for

information about popular cultural and social trends and their desire for satisfying recreational experiences.

Formal Learning Support

A library that offers Formal Learning Support helps students who are enrolled in a formal program of education or who are pursuing their education through a program of homeschooling to attain their educational goals.

General Information

A library that offers General Information helps meet the need for information and answers to questions on a broad array of topics related to work, school, and personal life.

Government Information

The library that offers Government Information service helps satisfy the need for information about elected officials and government agencies that enables people to participate in the democratic process.

Information Literacy

A library that provides Information Literacy service helps address the need for skills related to finding, evaluating, and using information effectively.

Lifelong Learning

A library that provides Lifelong Learning service helps address the desire for self-directed personal growth and development opportunities.

Local History and Genealogy

A library that offers Local History and Genealogy service addresses the desire of community residents to know and better understand personal or community heritage.

¹⁷ *New Planning for Results: A Streamlined Approach* by Sandra Nelson for the Public Library Association. American Library Association. Chicago and London. 2001.





FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY
BRANCH LIBRARY CAMPAIGN
GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY
AUGUST 2003

DRAFT

PURPOSE

The purpose of recognition is to commemorate the gifts of all donors. Therefore, all gifts to the Branch Library campaign will be recognized. Donors who prefer to remain anonymous will indicate this preference on their campaign pledge form.

Distinct from recognition is the naming of specific funds, programs, facilities and fixtures associated with the Branch Library Campaign. The purpose of naming is to inspire exceptional giving at levels that enable the campaign to attain its goal within the anticipated time period of five to seven years. Naming opportunities are based on gifts received during the campaign period.

There may be cases where the objectives of a donor require special consideration. Friends and Foundation staff will assist donors in designing gifts that match donors' interests with those of the Library.

POLICY

Types of Recognition:

All branch gifts will be acknowledged in a permanent book titled "The Honor Roll of Gifts" at each branch library. This book will be displayed or shelved in a prominent location under protective cover and updated as new donations come into the branch library through the duration of the campaign.

All gifts of \$1,000 and more will be acknowledged with permanent recognition on a plaque or other publicly visible fixture at the branch location in an area designated by the Library.

All gifts of \$5,000 to \$25,000 will be acknowledged as above in a distinct category for special gifts and with the additional option to place a name plate on any fixture or furniture universal to all branches such as the end of book stacks or tables and chairs. Friends and Foundation will create a "catalogue" of selected items appropriate for name plates in the branches.

All gifts of \$25,000 to \$100,000 will be acknowledged as above with a distinct category for major gifts and with the additional option to place a name plate adjacent to a room or other specifically designated area within the branch library. In either case the naming recognition for spaces/ rooms will read as follows:
“_____room/space is made possible through the generous donation of _____.”

All gifts of \$100,000 and up will be acknowledged as above with a distinct category for leadership gifts and with the additional option of permanent recognition for the citywide branch campaign at the Main Library. Donors at this level (gifts of \$100,000 or more) of giving may request recognition at one or more branch libraries benefiting from their donation.

Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Friends & Foundation, in conjunction with the City Librarian.

DRAFT



San Francisco Public Library Commission
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4733
Phone 415.557.4233, Fax 415.557.4240

DOCUMENTS DEP

SEP 29 2003

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Draft Minutes of the regular meeting of Thursday, September 4, 2003

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2003 in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

President Higuera called the meeting to order at 4:07PM.

The following members were noted present: Commissioners Bautista, Coulter, Higuera, and Strobin. Commissioner Chin joined the meeting at 4:09PM. Commissioner Streets was reported as excused attendance.

President Higuera announced in view of the lengthy agenda public comment would be limited to two minutes on each item.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 1, 2003 COMMISSION MINUTES

Vice President Steiman joined the meeting at 4:11PM.

Public comment on APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 5, 2003 COMMISSION MINUTES

An anonymous member of the Public called attention to Commissioner Coulter's Page 3 comments on the importance of public process and noted that their reported Page 2 comment on the lack of justification of the price was not specific enough. Mr. Peter Warfield called inaccurate a Page 1 comment attributed to him concerning popular materials in the collection suggesting that he referred to the importance of breadth and depth in library collections. Mr. Warfield additionally noted that a Page 5 comment was not that he personally had not received Commission agenda materials but that they had not been made available to the public.

Commission discussion of APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 5, 2003 COMMISSION MINUTES

President Higuera and Commissioner Coulter suggested that Mr. Warfield's comment on breadth and depth of collections be included.

MOTION: by Commissioner Bautista, seconded by Commissioner Chin for approval of the June 5, 2003 Minutes as amended.

ACTION: 6-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Higuera, Steiman, and Strobin)

AGENDA ITEM #2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2003 MEETING

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2003 MEETING

An anonymous member of the public noted that an error in Mr. Hansen's tenure as leader of the Golden Gate Park Band pointed out in previous minutes had been corrected, but that there were still inaccuracies in the reported Minutes concerning Ms.

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Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Charles A. Higuera, A.L.A.
President

Carol Steiman
Vice President

Helen Marte Bautista
Lonnie K. Chin
Steven A. Coulter
Fran A. Streets
Deborah Strobin
Commissioners

Susan Hildreth
City Librarian

Michael Housh
Commission Secretary



Hildreth's remarks in the BLIP Manager's Report discussion. This person also cited a lack of detail in the Bond Program Budget Review and the staff report and also cited comments by the City Librarian and the Branch Library Improvement Program Manager not reported. Mr. Peter Warfield found the Minutes lacking in detail specifically noting that his Page 1 comments were not reported as he had presented them.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2003 MEETING

Commissioner Chin criticized that the Minutes were too long. President Higuera called the Secretary's attention to an incomplete sentence in Ms. Thompson's Report requesting it be corrected.

MOTION: by Commissioner Chin, seconded by Commissioner Bautista these Minutes be approved as amended to correct the incomplete sentence.

ACTION: 6-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Higuera, Steiman, and Strobin)

AGENDA ITEM #3 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

City Librarian Susan Hildreth presented a report concerning: a Millennium update; a Ocean View Branch art report; an update on the Glen Park Marketplace, and exhibits and programs, (copy attached). Ms. Hildreth noted that though not listed on the agenda, that the Friends Annual Big Book Sale had begun that morning and that it seemed to be as popular this year as it had been in the past and recommended that everyone take part in this important annual fundraising benefit for the Library.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #3 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

An anonymous member of the public observed that there was no report on litigation or the Library Heroes proposal. This person also noted rumors concerning the new Glen Park Branch and suggested that planning issues related to that new branch should be of interest to the Commission. Mr. Peter Warfield commented on the Board of Supervisors' delaying final approval of the proposed new Glen Park Branch Library. Mr. Warfield also noted that while the Millennium migration seemed to have avoided major problems, there were problems that had not been reported and suggested that members of the public could provide help to identify problems.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #3 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

President Higuera lauded the Friends of the Library's Annual Big book Sale noting that the bigger location and many volunteers would indicate that it would be very successful this year. In response to questions by President Higuera, it was noted that there would be a variety of training opportunities made available to familiarize library users with the new ILS system. In response to a question by Commissioner Bautista it was reported that Cantonese and Spanish language trainings would also be provided. Responding to a query by Vice President Steiman, it was noted that the problems with holds had largely been resolved and the City Librarian noted that more than 30,000 user reserves had been migrated. The City Librarian responding to Vice President Steiman reported good tech support from the vendor. Commissioner Coulter noted the Wall of Heroes proposal was being circulated on a limited basis for comments and to clarify details, particularly concerning branch histories. He noted that a revised draft would be brought to the

Commission for discussion soon with additional discussion and final approval at a subsequent meeting. Commissioner Coulter applauded the annual observance of Banned Books Week and inquired if there could be an emphasis on books that had been banned in Northern California. Commission Chin noted and expressed appreciation of City Librarian Susan Hildreth's participation in the "first day at school" activities at Spring Valley School, California's oldest public school. In response to a question by President Higuera Ms. Hildreth confirmed that the Arts Commission was taking an active role in the Ocean View Branch public art enhancements.

AGENDA #4 AFFINITY CENTERS REPORT

Chief of the Main Library Kathy Lawhun introduced 4th Floor Manager Karen Strauss to update the Commissioners on the activities of the Steve Silver Beach Blanket Babylon Center and Gardener Haskell, 5th Floor Manager, for an update on the Wallace Stegner Environmental Center.

Mr. Haskell presented a brief report outlining community outreach, recent programming and exhibitions, the permanent Wallace Stegner related items displayed, and an overview of the Center's collections. Mr. Haskell noted that the Stegner Center addressed global environmental issues through the prism of being responsive to local needs and cited several recent local interest programs presented by the Stegner Center.

Ms. Strauss lauded the invaluable assistance and support provided to library users by Steve Silver Center Librarians Jason Gibbs and Pat Hall and described the Music, Art, and Recreation materials available at the Center. Ms. Strauss noted that the Silver Room served a mainly ceremonial purpose and that there was a wide array of in the library and online resources available including aids to finding local artists, musicians, composers, and that orchestral scores were available to loan to community groups. Ms. Strauss reported one could find popular songs and called special attention to the resources available in the Library's famed Dorothy Starr Collection of sheet music. She reported that more than 30,000 songs had been cataloged and that dedicated volunteers led by Librarian Jason Gibbs were working to add more materials to the data base. Ms. Strauss concluded her presentation by calling attention to an exhibit of music from the Starr Collection which would end on September 4th.

Public comment on AGENDA #4 AFFINITY CENTERS REPORT

Mr. Peter Warfield commented that he was pleased to learn about materials in the Library's collections being exhibited and hoped more such exhibits occur. Mr. Warfield found disappointing the lack of details concerning the Stegner Center's collections.

Commission discussion of AGENDA #4 AFFINITY CENTERS REPORT

In response to questions by President Higuera, Ms. Strauss discussed the nature of the ongoing relationship between the Steve Silver Center and Beach Blanket Babylon and called attention to the center's ties to the Performing Arts Library and Museum (PALM). In answer to a query by Commissioner Strobin, Ms. Strauss noted that the Library's Exhibition and Programs Department with support from the Friends of the Library funded Center programs and exhibits. Mr. Haskell pointed out that the entire collection of the Stegner Center was located in the Center and discussed the ongoing relationship

with those friends of the Center who participated in the original effort to create it. Ms. Hildreth noted that the Friends of the Library also supported Stegner Center programming from a diminishing amount of funds that had been raised initially. Commissioner Coulter applauded the work of the Centers and noted that outreach to the communities supporting the centers was vital. He also inquired regarding original vision statements for the Stegner Center that had been expansive and called attention to the wide array of environmental groups, foundations, and resources in Northern California that could be brought into productive relationships with the Stegner Center. In response to a Commissioner Coulter query about library staffing for the affinity centers, Ms. Hildreth outlined resources available and noted that the Library's Exhibitions and Programming Department devoted considerable portions of its resources to center programming and exhibits. Mr. Haskell noted that the Stegner Center's original vision statement was currently being reviewed in an effort to fine tune it and Ms. Strauss noted that was no such formal statement for the Silver Center. Responding to a query by Commissioner Bautista, Ms. Strauss noted ongoing outreach to the full diversity of contemporary Bay Area composers including Asian Americans and that such music was actively being tracked down and obtained for the Center's collections. President Higuera remarked that there were varying levels of success among the affinity centers and that the Library needed to help articulate vision and encourage ongoing community involvement and support to revive and re-engage involvement in them. Commissioner Bautista emphasized the importance of rebuilding ties to the original supporters and patrons of the Affinity Centers. Commissioner Chin noted that people who care stay involved and urged that the Centers embrace both a high and low approach so as to attract and involve both those with special interests and ordinary library users. President Higuera thanked the Library staff on behalf of the Commission for their dedication and hard work.

AGENDA #5 STRATEGIC PLAN 2003-06

Ms. Hildreth introduced Library Consultant Gail McPartland for an update and review of Strategic Plan changes resulting from the August 21, 2003 Public hearing. Ms. McPartland recapped the background of the plan's development, citing the good input received from the August 21st Public Hearing. Ms. McPartland reported that the discussion had re-affirmed the Plan's basic values noting: books and materials were the heart of the library; providing information in all formats through one collection with 27 service points was a key goal; and that libraries would serve as a community destination and gathering place. Ms. McPartland noted that while not everything of importance were highlighted, those topics would not be ignored but would be folded into the ongoing development of the plan as the next phase, development of means of implementation by staff, progressed.

Public comment on AGENDA #5 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

An anonymous member of the public found that there was not much strategic about this plan questioning in particular how a Page 16 citation of maintaining research collections would be implemented. This person also commented that RFID was given unwarranted priority that could be inverse to its cost and that preserving the library's past was the last priority. Mr. Peter Warfield found the proposed plan deficient and lacking in focus

on collections, space for collections and access to collections which he noted were all POE Report recommendations. Mr. Warfield also found other collection related issues not addressed and that the issues with RFID not discussed.

Commission discussion of AGENDA #5 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Commissioners Bautista and Chin engaged in discussion with the City Librarian concerning the issues concerning appropriate outreach and President Higuera noted that the proof of the plan will be in its implementation. He noted that there were useful steps outlined and that a framework for action by the Commission was provided so that this was real, not pie in the sky. Regarding RFID, President Higuera suggested that there were many presumptions and fears about privacy with it. Ms. Hildreth noted that RFID was following a similar path used in the introduction of barcode labeling in libraries. Deputy City Librarian Paul Underwood noted that staff had already reviewed RFID and begun to move toward a choice that would be brought forward in the discussion of next year's budget. Commissioner Coulter called attention to concerns he had that the plan did not present a grand vision and noted deficiencies in details of the history sections. Commissioner Coulter then reviewed elements of each section that he recommended be improved to make the plan more robust, raise the level of priority of some areas, maintain the library's high level of commitment to disabled access, and bring more stakeholder focus to the document. President Higuera noted that perhaps some of the points raised went into greater detail than was warranted in a strategic plan. Vice President Steiman noted that the reason RFID was so strongly spelled out was to let readers know what it was. Commissioner Coulter noted that specificity in such a plan can encourage involvement and guide choices based on identified community interest calling particular attention to educating the community concerning collection management issues. Ms. Hildreth responding to a comment by Commissioner Coulter explained that RFID's role was much broader and more useful than just in protecting the collection and emphasized its importance in reducing repetitive stress injuries and enhancing public access to the collection. The City Librarian agreed that a brochure discussing what was intended in the Strategic Plan would be useful. (a minor earthquake felt during the meeting a 6:42PM) President Higuera called attention to several sections that he felt could be improved to emphasize core activities, respond to new users, strengthen outreach, and refocus on programs and the Library's collections. Commission Bautista pointed out that the sections on the affinity centers called attention to their uniqueness and highlighted treasures of the Library's collections as well as reflected the involvement of the whole community with the Library. President Higuera remarked that the revised plan should be brought back for approval at its October meeting.

President Higuera called for a recess at 6:49PM.

President Higuera left the meeting during the recess.

The Commission returned to session at 7:01PM.

AGENDA #6 GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY

City Librarian Susan Hildreth introduced Martin Gomez, Executive Director, Friends of the Library, for a presentation on a proposed Gift Recognition Policy (copy attached)

for the Friends' Capital Campaign for the Branch Libraries. Mr. Gomez highlighted the Friends of the Library's goal of raising \$16 million for the branches and outlined their proposed inclusive process to be used in the Neighborhood Libraries Campaign.

Public comment on AGENDA #6 GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY

An anonymous member of the public suggested that this item had not been properly noted and that this person preferred that gifts be made directly to the Library. This person commented that if the Library were to do interesting and important things for those without money, that that would result in attracting those with money to contribute to the Library. Mr. Peter Warfield commented that the proposed policy seemed a give away of public assets to a private group without sufficient accountability and possibly incurring unfounded mandates that would result in ongoing costs to the Library.

Commission discussion of AGENDA #6 GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY

Commissioner Coulter noted that this policy would be a Commission Policy and that the proposed donor books would become part of the Library's history. Commissioners Chin and Bautista expressed frustration with those who do not contribute to the Library voicing objections to the Library receiving financial support from those who contribute to support the Library. Commissioner Chin found nothing objectionable in wealthy individuals giving to benefit the Library. In response to questions by Vice President Steiman, it was reported that donor recognition plaques would be brought before the Commission for review and that additionally the Library Commission would review and approval all exceptions made to the Policy. The City Librarian pointed out that donor signage would be developed in tandem with the new standard signage being developed throughout the Library.

AGENDA #7 FRIENDS REPORT

Ms. Deborah Doyle, President of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, called the Commission's attention to the Annual Big Book Sale then ongoing at Fort Mason. Ms. Doyle lauded the cooperation between Library staff and Friends and urged that everyone take part. Ms. Doyle updated the Commissioners on the City Arts & Lectures program and recent development in the Neighborhood Libraries Campaign. Ms. Doyle then announced award of a major \$50,000 gift to the Library from the Silver Giving Fund. The President of the Friends also informed the Commissioners that, in everyday use, the Library's community support organization would use the simpler Friends of the San Francisco Public Library as its title. Ms. Doyle informed the Commissioners that the Friends were in negotiation for a new office location which could mean their moving out of the Main Library. Ms. Doyle also informed the Commission of a letter of inquiry sent by the Friends concerning use of Prop. E (Library Preservation Fund) monies for school district purposes as appropriated by the Board of Supervisors.

Public comment on AGENDA #7 FRIENDS REPORT

None offered

Commission discussion of AGENDA #7 FRIENDS REPORT

Commissioner Coulter thanked the Friends for their support for the Library.

AGENDA #8 LABOR UNION REPORT

No report was offered.

AGENDA #9 NEW BUSINESS

No new business was proposed.

AGENDA #10 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous member of the public discussed their view that donations should only be made directly to the Library in response to a discussion among the Commissioners concerning individuals raising money for the Library and the Foundation acting as the exclusive Library- authorized organization authorized to raise funds. Mr. Ed Regan recommended that all libraries be open from 6AM until Midnight, seven days per week, every day of the year. Mr. Regan also recommended each branch have tables for reading while standing and that there be a labor collection in each containing corporate bylaws and recent union contracts. Mr. Peter Warfield expressed appreciation for Commissioners comments, especially on the Strategic Plan. Mr. Warfield commented that he had no plans to collect money on behalf of the Library, suggesting that the Library's granting privileged rights to raise funds, and it created inequality when only one organization was allowed to do so.

AGENDA ITEM #11 CLOSED SESSION

Chaffee v. Brown, et al, SF Superior Court, CGC-02-406387

MOTION: by Commissioner Coulter, seconded by Commissioner Bautista that the Library Commission assert the attorney-client privilege and convene in closed session under Government Code Section 54956.9(a) and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(d)(1) to confer with, and receive advice from the City Attorney regarding pending litigation as discussion in open session concerning this matter would likely and unavoidably prejudice the position of the City in the pending litigation listed above.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #11 CLOSED SESSION

An anonymous member of the public commented concerning what this person supposed the Deputy City Attorney might tell the Commissioners regarding this lawsuit. This person also pointed out that with regard to the issues involved that the Board of Supervisors had exercised their authority to bypass the Library Commission, noting that this person disagreed with Supervisor Daly's actions in this regard. Mr. Warfield requested clarification of what the proposed closed session was about.

ACTION: AYE 5-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Steiman, and Strobin)

The Library Commission went into closed session at 7:33PM.

The Library Commission returned to open session at 8:16PM

It was reported that no action had been taken during the closed session.

MOTION: by Commissioner Coulter, seconded by Commissioner Bautista that the Commission finds that it is in the best interests of the public that the Commission not disclose its closed session deliberations concerning the pending litigation cited above.

ACTION: AYE 5-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Steiman, and Strobin)

AGENDA ITEM #12 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Commissioner Bautista, seconded by Commissioner Strobin that the meeting be adjourned.

ACTION: AYE 5-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Steiman, and Strobin)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17PM

Michael Housh, Commission Secretary 9/12/03

Please note: These are draft Minutes subject to change by the Library Commission. Copies of Commission Minutes and handouts are available in the Office of the Commission Secretary, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

The Public Comment Summary Statements included in these Minutes are authorized by San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.16..

These summary statements are provided by the speaker. Their contents are neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by, the San Francisco Public Library Commission.

The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 1:

Approval of the Minutes: June 5, 2003

"It [the two minutes limitation on public comment] will be an inconvenience for the City Attorney. I wish you had discussed it with them.

This meeting was exemplary in many way.

On page 6, Commissioner Coulter describes in detail the importance of public process and he is faithfully reported. He says, 'it is important to bring critics into the process.' Let's see if the minutes do that.

On page 2, the anonymous citizen is quoted as finding the \$2 million price too high for 'as-is with faults included.' What the citizen was saying was that the justification for the price including the reference to the third-party appraiser was not specific enough.

On page 6 – I am out of time already."

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of September 4, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 2:

Approval of the Minutes: June 26, 2003

“At the middle of page 1 it states the commission secretary will correct the mistake in the years of Mr. Hansen’s service. The secretary did so.

I should also point out that the minutes on the website are still draft for the two meetings in April.

The minutes state that the anonymous citizen called attention to two errors. In fact, the citizen pointed out that Ms. Hildreth was claiming the BLIP came from this commission and it did not. That point is completely invisible here.

Later, it simply says ‘provided extensive background discussion.’ Actually, attention was drawn to a number of significant claims. First, Ms. Hildreth’s claim that she had no responsibility for the estimate that we would get \$10 from the Bond Program and Ms. Thompson’s claim that state officials would not be able to live with themselves if we got no money from that. Most significantly, the – two minutes goes by very quickly.”

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 3:

City Librarian's Report

"Although, last month we heard that it was impossible to re-program the speaker's clock, I want to note that it has already been reprogrammed.

I note with some regret that there is no litigation report. There was also no report on the document about identifying heroes.

Regarding Glen Park: I have not discussed this with Aaron Peskin. I have heard a number of rumors about why the Glen Park Project did not reach final approval. Issues regarding the Planning Department is not an obscure box that needs to be shielded from your view. This is still your branch library and your project. You and the interested public would want to hear the details about Supervisor Peskin's concerns."

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of September 4, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 5:

Library Strategic Plan 2003/06

“The plan still refers to Appendix A & B, but they have disappeared.

I was gratified that the speaker highlighted the issue of implementation.

There is much that we might consider positive, but very little that we would consider strategic. One example is found at the bottom of page 16 that we are dedicated to enhancing the depth of research collections, special collections and the affinity centers to assist researchers.

How will that be placed in our strategy? I would submit that it won't hold a candle to RFID because it costs half a million dollars. There is no contention that it is cost effective. I have learned that things are implemented in reverse proportion to their cost effectiveness.

What should be important is that we preserve the good in this institution that has been handed down to us. The strategy here is to implement everything else and leave that last.”

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of September 4, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 6:
Gift Recognition Policy

“This is a Friends & Foundation Gift Recognition Policy. I am not sure why we should be discussing this.

We should also discuss the Peter Warfield Gift Recognition Policy. When we passed the library’s Gift Recognition Policy, Commissioner Bautista assured us that gift to Peter Warfield would also be acknowledged.

The point is that we should acknowledge people who give money to the Library.

I am going to give you the secret, confident that you are not listening to me and that you would not put it into practice even if you were.

Do interesting things and important things with people who don’t have money. That is what people with money are interested in. People with money will be attracted when you are doing things that are important for the entire community, especially those who don’t have money. People with money will say to themselves, ‘I want to participate in that.’”

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of September 4, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 10:
Public Comment

"I ran out of time last month explaining that Ms. Hildreth was hoist on her own petard. There is less time this month.

The explanation for the limitation of two minutes was the long agenda, but commissioner didn't shorten their comments.

Ms. Bautista denies it, but the discussion was whether someone could go out into the community and solicit donations for themselves and get recognition in our institution. Ms. Chin reaffirms the point, by saying that it should be donations to the library. But that is not what the Foundation does. The Foundation solicits donations for themselves and we recognize them and only them.

If I create 'Save Our Libraries' I would hope that you would recognize my donors. Or you should recognize donors to the library itself."

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 11:

Closed Session: Existing Litigation as Defendant

"I will remain for the required open session and the two reports, only one of which is listed.

You will ask the City Attorney what chance the plaintiff has to prevail. The answer is, no chance whatsoever, none, zilch, nada.

The question then, is, how does that make you feel? The Board of Supervisors have trumped your irresponsibility on this issue. Therefore, when you say to someone that they should 'get a life,' or it is a 'sad reflection on their character' or the famous 'le mot de Coulter,' you are not the top ladder. I suspect that before this is over le mot de Coulter will become 'le mot de Chris Daly.'

The point is that there are serious issues and sometime you may find yourself on the other side of those issues, and you would wish for some ability to redeem those issues."



City Librarian's Report – 9/4/03

The Millennium migration was successful and the Library opened with a new online system on August 27th. There are a few glitches that need to be addressed but the migration was a great success overall. Users like and understand the new system.

The Ocean View Library will receive enhanced public art which is supported by funds for the Branch Capital Campaign and was the priority of the community. There may be minimal closures in the next few months to install the art, which includes literacy quotes on the 1st floor walls, painting on the ceiling and stairwell, enhanced flooring on the 2nd floor, additional ceramic tile and storytelling figures on the walls in the storytelling room.

The Glen Park MarketPlace project was continued by the Board of Supervisors until the first meeting in September. Although supportive of the Library purchase and sale agreement, some other issues regarding the project came to light and Supervisor Peskin, chair of the Finance Committee, wanted to find out more information on those issues. The Elder Arts exhibit is on display on the 6th floor and the Jewett Gallery until mid-October. There will be a program on Banned Books on September 25th and a celebration of William Saroyan on September 28th. The Poet Laureate Devorah major has initiated her keynote project "City Reflections: War and Peace on Our Streets" which includes monthly featured poems in the "At the Public Library", on the Library's website and in the San Francisco Chronicle Book Section. The project will culminate in an exhibit to be held in April 2004.





San Francisco Public Library Commission

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4733
Phone 415.557.4233, Fax 415.557.4240

OCT - 6 2003

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Minutes of the regular meeting of Thursday, September 4, 2003
(As approved October 2, 2003)

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2003 in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

President Higuera called the meeting to order at 4:07PM.

The following members were noted present: Commissioners Bautista, Coulter, Higuera, and Strobin. Commissioner Chin joined the meeting at 4:09PM. Commissioner Streets was reported as excused attendance.

President Higuera announced in view of the lengthy agenda public comment would be limited to two minutes on each item.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 1, 2003 COMMISSION MINUTES

Vice President Steiman joined the meeting at 4:11PM.

Public comment on APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 5, 2003 COMMISSION MINUTES

An anonymous member of the Public called attention to Commissioner Coulter's Page 3 comments on the importance of public process and noted that their reported Page 2 comment on the lack of justification of the price was not specific enough. Mr. Peter Warfield called inaccurate a Page 1 comment attributed to him concerning popular materials in the collection suggesting that he referred to the importance of breadth and depth in library collections. Mr. Warfield additionally noted that a Page 5 comment was not that he personally had not received Commission agenda materials but that they had not been made available to the public.

Commission discussion of APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 5, 2003 COMMISSION MINUTES

President Higuera and Commissioner Coulter suggested that Mr. Warfield's comment on breadth and depth of collections be included.

MOTION: by Commissioner Bautista, seconded by Commissioner Chin for approval of the June 5, 2003 Minutes as amended.

ACTION: 6-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Higuera, Steiman, and Strobin)

AGENDA ITEM #2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2003 MEETING

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2003 MEETING

An anonymous member of the public noted that an error in Mr. Hansen's tenure as leader of the Golden Gate Park Band pointed out in previous minutes had been corrected, but that there were still inaccuracies in the reported Minutes concerning Ms.

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4/03
Approved

Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Charles A. Higuera, A.L.A.
President

Carol Steiman
Vice President

Helen Marte Bautista
Lonnie K. Chin
Steven A. Coulter
Fran A. Streets
Deborah Strobin
Commissioners

Susan Hildreth
City Librarian

Michael Housh
Commission Secretary



Hildreth's remarks in the BLIP Manager's Report discussion. This person also cited a lack of detail in the Bond Program Budget Review and the staff report and also cited comments by the City Librarian and the Branch Library Improvement Program Manager not reported. Mr. Peter Warfield found the Minutes lacking in detail specifically noting that his Page 1 comments were not reported as he had presented them.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #2 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2003 MEETING

Commissioner Chin criticized that the Minutes were too long. President Higuera called the Secretary's attention to an incomplete sentence in Ms. Thompson's Report requesting it be corrected.

MOTION: by Commissioner Chin, seconded by Commissioner Bautista these Minutes be approved as amended to correct the incomplete sentence.

ACTION: 6-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Higuera, Steiman, and Strobin)

AGENDA ITEM #3 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

City Librarian Susan Hildreth presented a report concerning: a Millennium update; a Ocean View Branch art report; an update on the Glen Park Marketplace, and exhibits and programs, (copy attached). Ms. Hildreth noted that though not listed on the agenda, that the Friends Annual Big Book Sale had begun that morning and that it seemed to be as popular this year as it had been in the past and recommended that everyone take part in this important annual fundraising benefit for the Library.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #3 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

An anonymous member of the public observed that there was no report on litigation or the Library Heroes proposal. This person also noted rumors concerning the new Glen Park Branch and suggested that planning issues related to that new branch should be of interest to the Commission. Mr. Peter Warfield commented on the Board of Supervisors' delaying final approval of the proposed new Glen Park Branch Library. Mr. Warfield also noted that while the Millennium migration seemed to have avoided major problems, there were problems that had not been reported and suggested that members of the public could provide help to identify problems.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #3 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

President Higuera lauded the Friends of the Library's Annual Big book Sale noting that the bigger location and many volunteers would indicate that it would be very successful this year. In response to questions by President Higuera, it was noted that there would be a variety of training opportunities made available to familiarize library users with the new ILS system. In response to a question by Commissioner Bautista it was reported that Cantonese and Spanish language trainings would also be provided. Responding to a query by Vice President Steiman, it was noted that the problems with holds had largely been resolved and the City Librarian noted that more than 30,000 user reserves had been migrated. The City Librarian responding to Vice President Steiman reported good tech support from the vendor. Commissioner Coulter noted the Wall of Heroes proposal was being circulated on a limited basis for comments and to clarify details, particularly concerning branch histories. He noted that a revised draft would be brought to the

Commission for discussion soon with additional discussion and final approval at a subsequent meeting. Commissioner Coulter applauded the annual observance of Banned Books Week and inquired if there could be an emphasis on books that had been banned in Northern California. Commission Chin noted and expressed appreciation of City Librarian Susan Hildreth's participation in the "first day at school" activities at Spring Valley School, California's oldest public school. In response to a question by President Higuera Ms. Hildreth confirmed that the Arts Commission was taking an active role in the Ocean View Branch public art enhancements.

AGENDA #4 AFFINITY CENTERS REPORT

Chief of the Main Library Kathy Lawhun introduced 4th Floor Manager Karen Strauss to update the Commissioners on the activities of the Steve Silver Beach Blanket Babylon Center and Gardener Haskell, 5th Floor Manager, for an update on the Wallace Stegner Environmental Center.

Mr. Haskell presented a brief report outlining community outreach, recent programming and exhibitions, the permanent Wallace Stegner related items displayed, and an overview of the Center's collections. Mr. Haskell noted that the Stegner Center addressed global environmental issues through the prism of being responsive to local needs and cited several recent local interest programs presented by the Stegner Center.

Ms. Strauss lauded the invaluable assistance and support provided to library users by Steve Silver Center Librarians Jason Gibbs and Pat Hall and described the Music, Art, and Recreation materials available at the Center. Ms. Strauss noted that the Silver Room served a mainly ceremonial purpose and that there was a wide array of in the library and online resources available including aids to finding local artists, musicians, composers, and that orchestral scores were available to loan to community groups. Ms. Strauss reported one could find popular songs and called special attention to the resources available in the Library's famed Dorothy Starr Collection of sheet music. She reported that more than 30,000 songs had been cataloged and that dedicated volunteers led by Librarian Jason Gibbs were working to add more materials to the data base. Ms. Strauss concluded her presentation by calling attention to an exhibit of music from the Starr Collection which would end on September 4th.

Public comment on AGENDA #4 AFFINITY CENTERS REPORT

Mr. Peter Warfield commented that he was pleased to learn about materials in the Library's collections being exhibited and hoped more such exhibits occur. Mr. Warfield found disappointing the lack of details concerning the Stegner Center's collections.

Commission discussion of AGENDA #4 AFFINITY CENTERS REPORT

In response to questions by President Higuera, Ms. Strauss discussed the nature of the ongoing relationship between the Steve Silver Center and Beach Blanket Babylon and called attention to the center's ties to the Performing Arts Library and Museum (PALM). In answer to a query by Commissioner Strobin, Ms. Strauss noted that the Library's Exhibition and Programs Department with support from the Friends of the Library funded Center programs and exhibits. Mr. Haskell pointed out that the entire collection of the Stegner Center was located in the Center and discussed the ongoing relationship

with those friends of the Center who participated in the original effort to create it. Ms. Hildreth noted that the Friends of the Library also supported Stegner Center programming from a diminishing amount of funds that had been raised initially. Commissioner Coulter applauded the work of the Centers and noted that outreach to the communities supporting the centers was vital. He also inquired regarding original vision statements for the Stegner Center that had been expansive and called attention to the wide array of environmental groups, foundations, and resources in Northern California that could be brought into productive relationships with the Stegner Center. In response to a Commissioner Coulter query about library staffing for the affinity centers, Ms. Hildreth outlined resources available and noted that the Library's Exhibitions and Programming Department devoted considerable portions of its resources to center programming and exhibits. Mr. Haskell noted that the Stegner Center's original vision statement was currently being reviewed in an effort to fine tune it and Ms. Strauss noted that was no such formal statement for the Silver Center. Responding to a query by Commissioner Bautista, Ms. Strauss noted ongoing outreach to the full diversity of contemporary Bay Area composers including Asian Americans and that such music was actively being tracked down and obtained for the Center's collections. President Higuera remarked that there were varying levels of success among the affinity centers and that the Library needed to help articulate vision and encourage ongoing community involvement and support to revive and re-engage involvement in them. Commissioner Bautista emphasized the importance of rebuilding ties to the original supporters and patrons of the Affinity Centers. Commissioner Chin noted that people who care stay involved and urged that the Centers embrace both a high and low approach so as to attract and involve both those with special interests and ordinary library users. President Higuera thanked the Library staff on behalf of the Commission for their dedication and hard work.

AGENDA #5 STRATEGIC PLAN 2003-06

Ms. Hildreth introduced Library Consultant Gail McPartland for an update and review of Strategic Plan changes resulting from the August 21, 2003 Public hearing. Ms. McPartland recapped the background of the plan's development, citing the good input received from the August 21st Public Hearing. Ms. McPartland reported that the discussion had re-affirmed the Plan's basic values noting: books and materials were the heart of the library; providing information in all formats through one collection with 27 service points was a key goal; and that libraries would serve as a community destination and gathering place. Ms. McPartland noted that while not everything of importance were highlighted, those topics would not be ignored but would be folded into the ongoing development of the plan as the next phase, development of means of implementation by staff, progressed.

Public comment on AGENDA #5 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

An anonymous member of the public found that there was not much strategic about this plan questioning in particular how a Page 16 citation of maintaining research collections would be implemented. This person also commented that RFID was given unwarranted priority that could be inverse to its cost and that preserving the library's past was the last priority. Mr. Peter Warfield found the proposed plan deficient and lacking in focus

on collections, space for collections and access to collections which he noted were all POE Report recommendations. Mr. Warfield also found other collection related issues not addressed and that the issues with RFID not discussed.

Commission discussion of AGENDA #5 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

Commissioners Bautista and Chin engaged in discussion with the City Librarian concerning the issues concerning appropriate outreach and President Higuera noted that the proof of the plan will be in its implementation. He noted that there were useful steps outlined and that a framework for action by the Commission was provided so that this was real, not pie in the sky. Regarding RFID, President Higuera suggested that there were many presumptions and fears about privacy with it. Ms. Hildreth noted that RFID was following a similar path used in the introduction of barcode labeling in libraries. Deputy City Librarian Paul Underwood noted that staff had already reviewed RFID and begun to move toward a choice that would be brought forward in the discussion of next year's budget. Commissioner Coulter called attention to concerns he had that the plan did not present a grand vision and noted deficiencies in details of the history sections. Commissioner Coulter then reviewed elements of each section that he recommended be improved to make the plan more robust, raise the level of priority of some areas, maintain the library's high level of commitment to disabled access, and bring more stakeholder focus to the document. President Higuera noted that perhaps some of the points raised went into greater detail than was warranted in a strategic plan. Vice President Steiman noted that the reason RFID was so strongly spelled out was to let readers know what it was. Commissioner Coulter noted that specificity in such a plan can encourage involvement and guide choices based on identified community interest calling particular attention to educating the community concerning collection management issues. Ms. Hildreth responding to a comment by Commissioner Coulter explained that RFID's role was much broader and more useful than just in protecting the collection and emphasized its importance in reducing repetitive stress injuries and enhancing public access to the collection. The City Librarian agreed that a brochure discussing what was intended in the Strategic Plan would be useful. (a minor earthquake felt during the meeting a 6:42PM) President Higuera called attention to several sections that he felt could be improved to emphasize core activities, respond to new users, strengthen outreach, and refocus on programs and the Library's collections. Commission Bautista pointed out that the sections on the affinity centers called attention to their uniqueness and highlighted treasures of the Library's collections as well as reflected the involvement of the whole community with the Library. President Higuera remarked that the revised plan should be brought back for approval at its October meeting.

President Higuera called for a recess at 6:49PM.

President Higuera left the meeting during the recess.

The Commission returned to session at 7:01PM.

AGENDA #6 GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY

City Librarian Susan Hildreth introduced Martin Gomez, Executive Director, Friends of the Library, for a presentation on a proposed Gift Recognition Policy (copy attached)

for the Friends' Capital Campaign for the Branch Libraries. Mr. Gomez highlighted the Friends of the Library's goal of raising \$16 million for the branches and outlined their proposed inclusive process to be used in the Neighborhood Libraries Campaign.

Public comment on AGENDA #6 GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY

An anonymous member of the public suggested that this item had not been properly noted and that this person preferred that gifts be made directly to the Library. This person commented that if the Library were to do interesting and important things for those without money, that that would result in attracting those with money to contribute to the Library. Mr. Peter Warfield commented that the proposed policy seemed a give away of public assets to a private group without sufficient accountability and possibly incurring unfounded mandates that would result in ongoing costs to the Library.

Commission discussion of AGENDA #6 GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY

Commissioner Coulter noted that this policy would be a Commission Policy and that the proposed donor books would become part of the Library's history. Commissioners Chin and Bautista expressed frustration with those who do not contribute to the Library voicing objections to the Library receiving financial support from those who contribute to support the Library. Commissioner Chin found nothing objectionable in wealthy individuals giving to benefit the Library. In response to questions by Vice President Steiman, it was reported that donor recognition plaques would be brought before the Commission for review and that additionally the Library Commission would review and approval all exceptions made to the Policy. The City Librarian pointed out that donor signage would be developed in tandem with the new standard signage being developed throughout the Library.

AGENDA #7 FRIENDS REPORT

Ms. Deborah Doyle, President of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, called the Commission's attention to the Annual Big Book Sale then ongoing at Fort Mason. Ms. Doyle lauded the cooperation between Library staff and Friends and urged that everyone take part. Ms. Doyle updated the Commissioners on the City Arts & Lectures program and recent development in the Neighborhood Libraries Campaign. Ms. Doyle then announced award of a major \$50,000 gift to the Library from the Silver Giving Fund. The President of the Friends also informed the Commissioners that, in everyday use, the Library's community support organization would use the simpler Friends of the San Francisco Public Library as its title. Ms. Doyle informed the Commissioners that the Friends were in negotiation for a new office location which could mean their moving out of the Main Library. Ms. Doyle also informed the Commission of a letter of inquiry sent by the Friends concerning use of Prop. E (Library Preservation Fund) monies for school district purposes as appropriated by the Board of Supervisors.

Public comment on AGENDA #7 FRIENDS REPORT

None offered

Commission discussion of AGENDA #7 FRIENDS REPORT

Commissioner Coulter thanked the Friends for their support for the Library.

AGENDA #8 LABOR UNION REPORT

No report was offered.

AGENDA #9 NEW BUSINESS

No new business was proposed.

AGENDA #10 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous member of the public discussed their view that donations should only be made directly to the Library in response to a discussion among the Commissioners concerning individuals raising money for the Library and the Foundation acting as the exclusive Library- authorized organization authorized to raise funds. Mr. Ed Regan recommended that all libraries be open from 6AM until Midnight, seven days per week, every day of the year. Mr. Regan also recommended each branch have tables for reading while standing and that there be a labor collection in each containing corporate bylaws and recent union contracts. Mr. Peter Warfield expressed appreciation for Commissioners comments, especially on the Strategic Plan. Mr. Warfield commented that he had no plans to collect money on behalf of the Library, suggesting that the Library's granting privileged rights to raise funds, and it created inequality when only one organization was allowed to do so.

AGENDA ITEM #11 CLOSED SESSION

Chaffee v. Brown, et al, SF Superior Court, CGC-02-406387

MOTION: by Commissioner Coulter, seconded by Commissioner Bautista that the Library Commission assert the attorney-client privilege and convene in closed session under Government Code Section 54956.9(a) and San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.10(d)(1) to confer with, and receive advice from the City Attorney regarding pending litigation as discussion in open session concerning this matter would likely and unavoidably prejudice the position of the City in the pending litigation listed above.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #11 CLOSED SESSION

An anonymous member of the public commented concerning what this person supposed the Deputy City Attorney might tell the Commissioners regarding this lawsuit. This person also pointed out that with regard to the issues involved that the Board of Supervisors had exercised their authority to bypass the Library Commission, noting that this person disagreed with Supervisor Daly's actions in this regard. Mr. Warfield requested clarification of what the proposed closed session was about.

ACTION: AYE 5-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Steiman, and Strobin)

The Library Commission went into closed session at 7:33PM.

The Library Commission returned to open session at 8:16PM

It was reported that no action had been taken during the closed session.

MOTION: by Commissioner Coulter, seconded by Commissioner Bautista that the Commission finds that it is in the best interests of the public that the Commission not disclose its closed session deliberations concerning the pending litigation cited above.

ACTION: AYE 5-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Steiman, and Strobin)

AGENDA ITEM #12 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Commissioner Bautista, seconded by Commissioner Strobin that the meeting be adjourned.

ACTION: AYE 5-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Steiman, and Strobin)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17PM

Michael Housh, Commission Secretary 9/12/03

Please note: Copies of Commission Minutes and handouts are available in the Office of the Commission Secretary, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

The Public Comment Summary Statements included in these Minutes are authorized by San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.16..

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1



Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

The Public Comment Summary Statements included in these Minutes are authorized by San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.16..

These summary statements are provided by the speaker. Their contents are neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by, the San Francisco Public Library Commission.

The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 1:

Approval of the Minutes: June 5, 2003

"It [the two minutes limitation on public comment] will be an inconvenience for the City Attorney. I wish you had discussed it with them.

This meeting was exemplary in many way.

On page 6, Commissioner Coulter describes in detail the importance of public process and he is faithfully reported. He says, 'it is important to bring critics into the process.' Let's see if the minutes do that.

On page 2, the anonymous citizen is quoted as finding the \$2 million price too high for 'as-is with faults included.' What the citizen was saying was that the justification for the price including the reference to the third-party appraiser was not specific enough.

On page 6 – I am out of time already."

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of September 4, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 2:

Approval of the Minutes: June 26, 2003

“At the middle of page 1 it states the commission secretary will correct the mistake in the years of Mr. Hansen’s service. The secretary did so.

I should also point out that the minutes on the website are still draft for the two meetings in April.

The minutes state that the anonymous citizen called attention to two errors. In fact, the citizen pointed out that Ms. Hildreth was claiming the BLIP came from this commission and it did not. That point is completely invisible here.

Later, it simply says ‘provided extensive background discussion.’ Actually, attention was drawn to a number of significant claims. First, Ms. Hildreth’s claim that she had no responsibility for the estimate that we would get \$10 from the Bond Program and Ms. Thompson’s claim that state officials would not be able to live with themselves if we got no money from that. Most significantly, the – two minutes goes by very quickly.”

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 3:

City Librarian's Report

"Although, last month we heard that it was impossible to re-program the speaker's clock, I want to note that it has already been reprogrammed.

I note with some regret that there is no litigation report. There was also no report on the document about identifying heroes.

Regarding Glen Park: I have not discussed this with Aaron Peskin. I have heard a number of rumors about why the Glen Park Project did not reach final approval. Issues regarding the Planning Department is not an obscure box that needs to be shielded from your view. This is still your branch library and your project. You and the interested public would want to hear the details about Supervisor Peskin's concerns."

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of September 4, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 5:

Library Strategic Plan 2003/06

“The plan still refers to Appendix A & B, but they have disappeared.

I was gratified that the speaker highlighted the issue of implementation.

There is much that we might consider positive, but very little that we would consider strategic. One example is found at the bottom of page 16 that we are dedicated to enhancing the depth of research collections, special collections and the affinity centers to assist researchers.

How will that be placed in our strategy? I would submit that it won't hold a candle to RFID because it costs half a million dollars. There is no contention that it is cost effective. I have learned that things are implemented in reverse proportion to their cost effectiveness.

What should be important is that we preserve the good in this institution that has been handed down to us. The strategy here is to implement everything else and leave that last.”

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of September 4, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 6:
Gift Recognition Policy

“This is a Friends & Foundation Gift Recognition Policy. I am not sure why we should be discussing this.

We should also discuss the Peter Warfield Gift Recognition Policy. When we passed the library’s Gift Recognition Policy, Commissioner Bautista assured us that gift to Peter Warfield would also be acknowledged.

The point is that we should acknowledge people who give money to the Library.

I am going to give you the secret, confident that you are not listening to me and that you would not put it into practice even if you were.

Do interesting things and important things with people who don’t have money. That is what people with money are interested in. People with money will be attracted when you are doing things that are important for the entire community, especially those who don’t have money. People with money will say to themselves, ‘I want to participate in that.’”

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of September 4, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 10:
Public Comment

"I ran out of time last month explaining that Ms. Hildreth was hoist on her own petard. There is less time this month.

The explanation for the limitation of two minutes was the long agenda, but commissioner didn't shorten their comments.

Ms. Bautista denies it, but the discussion was whether someone could go out into the community and solicit donations for themselves and get recognition in our institution. Ms. Chin reaffirms the point, by saying that it should be donations to the library. But that is not what the Foundation does. The Foundation solicits donations for themselves and we recognize them and only them.

If I create 'Save Our Libraries' I would hope that you would recognize my donors. Or you should recognize donors to the library itself."

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of September 4, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 4, 2003

Item 11:

Closed Session: Existing Litigation as Defendant

“I will remain for the required open session and the two reports, only one of which is listed.

You will ask the City Attorney what chance the plaintiff has to prevail. The answer is, no chance whatsoever, none, zilch, nada.

The question then, is, how does that make you feel? The Board of Supervisors have trumped your irresponsibility on this issue. Therefore, when you say to someone that they should ‘get a life,’ or it is a ‘sad reflection on their character’ or the famous ‘le mot de Coulter,’ you are not the top ladder. I suspect that before this is over le mot de Coulter will become ‘le mot de Chris Daly.’

The point is that there are serious issues and sometime you may find yourself on the other side of those issues, and you would wish for some ability to redeem those issues.”



City Librarian's Report – 9/4/03

The Millennium migration was successful and the Library opened with a new online system on August 27th. There are a few glitches that need to be addressed but the migration was a great success overall. Users like and understand the new system.

The Ocean View Library will receive enhanced public art which is supported by funds for the Branch Capital Campaign and was the priority of the community. There may be minimal closures in the next few months to install the art, which includes literacy quotes on the 1st floor walls, painting on the ceiling and stairwell, enhanced flooring on the 2nd floor, additional ceramic tile and storytelling figures on the walls in the storytelling room.

The Glen Park MarketPlace project was continued by the Board of Supervisors until the first meeting in September. Although supportive of the Library purchase and sale agreement, some other issues regarding the project came to light and Supervisor Peskin, chair of the Finance Committee, wanted to find out more information on those issues. The Elder Arts exhibit is on display on the 6th floor and the Jewett Gallery until mid-October. There will be a program on Banned Books on September 25th and a celebration of William Saroyan on September 28th. The Poet Laureate Devorah major has initiated her keynote project "City Reflections: War and Peace on Our Streets" which includes monthly featured poems in the "At the Public Library", on the Library's website and in the San Francisco Chronicle Book Section. The project will culminate in an exhibit to be held in April 2004.





San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

STRATEGIC PLAN

2003 – 2006

[AUGUST 21, 2003 FINAL DRAFT]

Supersedes all previous drafts and includes changes recommended by the SFPL Library Commission at the August 21, 2003 public hearing. Changes appear in italics and are underlined.

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

STRATEGIC PLAN 2003 – 2006

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INTRODUCTION

From its inception, the San Francisco Public Library's ability to achieve and maintain excellence and innovation has been the result of thoughtful planning focused on the needs and interests of the residents of San Francisco.

While the principles of library service are the same today as they were at the beginning of the 20th century, library services and their methods of delivery have expanded in ways unimagined by our predecessors. Libraries are changing because society, culture and the people we serve are changing. Strategic planning is what has allowed the library to manage these changes without losing sight of our values and our commitment to our community. The Strategic Plan 2003 -2006 is intended to continue to build on our past success by prioritizing and refocusing our energy and resources. Its development and implementation requires us to assess and adjust our efforts in response to a changing environment both within and outside the organization.

The San Francisco Public Library is the community's repository for books and materials about a wide variety of subjects and interests. The provision of information, in books, other print and non-print formats, or electronic form, is the primary role and service of the San Francisco Public Library. Although technology has become a significant factor in the provision of library services, it is not an end in itself. It is only one of the many means to provide information. Books and information are the heart of the library.

We are fortunate in San Francisco to have a wonderful Main Library facility that acts as the repository for all types of information and serves as a support collection for all our branches. The twenty-six branches of the Library, because of their size and community-based nature, provide books, information and recreational reading that serve the immediate needs of their users. Like the branches, the Main Library also serves a neighborhood community and provides that function primarily with services and materials in the First Stop¹ collection and the Children's Center. The roles of the Main Library and the branches complement each other and allow the Library to provide its users with information ranging from in-depth, historical treatment of subjects, to ready reference and current best-sellers. Our system is truly one library collection with twenty-seven entry points; and, with the Library's delivery system, materials move from building to building on a daily basis to satisfy the needs of library users.

The 21st century library serves as a gateway to the exciting and complex world of information. With the pervasive availability and use of the Internet, many people believe that they can serve the same function as a librarian, but librarians are trained to be information-seekers and can find answers to questions in electronic, paper or any other form. The role of the librarian is transitioning from one who provides information to users to one who serves as an information navigator or

¹ First Stop is located on the main entry floor and includes a collection of books, videos, DVD's, CD's and other materials on a variety of popular and current topics and interests.

INTRODUCTION

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¹ First Stop is located on the main entry floor and includes a collection of books, videos, DVD's, CD's and other materials on a variety of popular and current topics and interests.

trainer, assisting users to effectively identify and judge the quality of the myriad of information available on the Internet today.

Although the functions of providing an exciting and balanced book collection and access to the world of information are important, the library also holds a special place in our neighborhoods as a venue for many types of public programs from story times to book groups, a gathering place for friends and neighbors, a meeting place for community groups and the repository for the history and culture of our neighborhoods. As well as serving as a destination point, the library seeks to become part of the communities we serve by reaching out to the diverse populations we serve, such as students, seniors, new immigrants, and disabled users. We hope to better meet the needs of our users by interacting with them in their own situations and going beyond the library walls to provide services.

This strategic plan was developed with input from community members and Library staff. By engaging the community in the planning process, we hope that we have produced a plan that is responsive to the needs of the community and goes beyond what the Library, without that community input, may have projected as its role in the community. By combining the knowledge and guidance of community members and the professional expertise of Library staff, we believe that we can effectively put the Library to work for the community. The San Francisco Public Library is here to meet the needs of its users and to serve as a partner with other agencies and the community at large in strengthening the quality of life in San Francisco.

MISSION

The San Francisco Public Library is dedicated to free and equal access to information, knowledge, independent learning, and the joys of reading for our diverse community.

VALUES

The values statement provides the framework that supports the planning and implementation of all the Library service responses.

- Our library users are the reason the Library exists. We provide quality service and treat all library users fairly and equally. Services are provided in a non-judgmental manner that is sensitive to, and supportive of, human differences. Our goal is always to provide excellent customer service.
- We use professional judgment, knowledge, and experience to develop and maintain collections, services and staff that respect and reflect the diversity in our city.
- We provide convenient access to facilities, resources and services that meets the needs of library users.
- We advocate for and support policies and procedures that protect support privacy of all library user records.² We value and provide free and equal access to all types of information.³
- Our employees are valued as individuals for their important contributions to the organization. An open exchange of ideas is encouraged throughout the library system. We encourage teamwork and collaboration. We support our staff by providing opportunities for growth and professional development.

² The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 53-03 on January 21, 2003. The San Francisco Public Library Commission passed Resolution 2/03 on February 4, 2003 protecting library users' rights to privacy and confidentiality.

³ The San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed Resolution 206-01 on October 1, 2001 which prohibits the use of Internet filtering or content blocking technology on City-owned computers used as public Internet access terminals.

- **We are a learning organization that is not afraid to change and take appropriate risks in pursuit of meeting community needs. We constantly reassess our services and methods and attempt to see ourselves through the public's eyes.**

HISTORY

The San Francisco Public Library, established in 1877, has had a fairly turbulent past, not unlike other famous institutions of our City. In 1888, the Main Library was situated in the City Hall on Marshall Square, which is the site of the current Main Library. Also, three branches were open in Mission, North Beach (now Chinatown) and Potrero Hill. In 1901, Andrew Carnegie offered the City \$750,000 to support the construction of a new Main Library and several branches. Because Carnegie was perceived as not supportive of labor, this gift created much controversy and was not granted. The Main Library and two branches were destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, although in 1907 a new Main Library opened. In 1912, the Carnegie grant again became an issue; and the acceptance of the funds was placed on the ballot and overwhelmingly approved by the voters. This led to the construction of the Main Library, now the Asian Art Museum, and five branches. The Library system is now comprised of the Main Library and twenty-six branches, with a new Mission Bay Branch slated for construction in the near future.

The Library was not well-supported by the City for many years. A bond issue for construction of a new Main Library and new branches failed in 1948, which led to enhanced grassroots efforts to increase support for the system and the creation of the Friends of the Library. Years of citizen support were behind the success in 1988 of the \$109.5 bond issue that funded the construction of the new Main Library, a magnificent, 376,000 square foot facility that opened in April 1996. Always ready for a challenge, citizens also worked to support Proposition E, a ballot initiative passed in 1994 that secured dedicated funding for the Library. Finally, in 2000, further citizen efforts resulted in the passage of the \$106 million bond issue to support the renovation of most branches and the construction of five new branches.

Planning efforts were seriously undertaken by the Library system as early as 1958 when Emerson Greenaway, director of the Free Library of Philadelphia, was retained to survey the Library system. Another planning report was commissioned in 1982 by Columbia University library expert Lowell Martin. One of the first examples of plans that incorporated the needs of the community was the plan approved by the Library Commission in 1992. In 1997, the Mayor commissioned an audit of the Library; and one of the key recommendations was the development of a strategic plan. That effort was begun in 1998 by former City Librarian Regina Minudri. The Public Library Association's *Planning for Results* model was used as a basis for that plan. A draft plan was completed in 1999; and, although never officially approved by the Library Commission, that plan has guided the work of library staff over the last several years. Currently, the Board of Supervisors requires that every City department prepare a strategic plan.⁴ Because of the City requirement and also due to the changing nature of society and new priorities for the library system, a new planning effort was begun in 2003, again based on the Public Library Association model.

⁴ Charter Section 9.114 regarding Mission Driven Budgets and Charter Section 16.120 regarding Customer Service Plans as part of Chapter 88 of the City Administrative Code.
San Francisco Public Library Strategic Plan 2003 – 2006

METHODOLOGY

This Strategic Plan uses the model found in *The New Planning for Results, a Streamlined Approach* by Sandra Nelson for the Public Library Association (Chicago, American Library Association, 2001). The *New Planning for Results* was built on three basic assumptions:

1. Excellence must be defined locally – it results when library services match community needs, interests, and priorities.
2. Excellence is possible for both small and large libraries – it rests more on commitment than on unlimited resources.
3. Excellence is a moving target – even when achieved, excellence must be continually maintained.

This method acknowledges there is no national standard for exceptional library service. Just as each community is unique, each library is unique in how it may best meet the needs of its community. To this end, members of the San Francisco community and selected staff, in two separate groups, were invited to a series of meetings devoted to creating a vision of San Francisco and discuss the Library's ability to help make the vision a reality.

First the Community Planning Group⁵ was asked to define a vision of San Francisco as a place to live, work and visit. Members were asked to consider the social, economic, political, cultural and demographic make-up of the City. Next members were asked to consider the needs to be met if that vision of San Francisco were to be attained. It will come as no surprise that members desired to improve several situations such as homelessness, educational, cultural, political and socioeconomic issues encountered by residents and visitors on a daily basis. After defining these needs, members were asked to identify those issues the Library could help address.

Second, the Staff Focus Group⁶ responded to the identified needs the Library could address by reviewing all library services. With a goal of helping the community achieve its vision, the staff group reviewed services such as collections, reading spaces, facilities improvements, websites, programs and exhibits and much more. Members used this opportunity to brainstorm new services and integrate services that have long been requested by members of the public. The resulting dialogue identified three service responses that would serve as the framework for existing and upcoming library services: General Information, Lifelong Learning and Current Topics and Titles.

Out of this dialogue grew the service responses, goals, objectives, and activities presented here. The Strategic Plan confirms the community and the Library's commitment to excellent library service for all who live and work in this great City.

⁵ See Attachment A for a list of participants

⁶ See Attachment A for a list of participants

How to Use The Plan

As mentioned above, the Community Planning Group and library staff, in an ongoing dialogue, identified three service responses and community-specific goals that best meet the overall needs of the San Francisco community.⁷ The service responses, including a definition from *New Planning for Results*, and the corresponding Library goals are summarized here for quick reference:

- **General Information** - A library that offers General Information helps meet the need for information and answers to questions on a broad array of topics related to work, school, and personal life.

Goal 1: All residents of San Francisco will have questions answered on a broad array of topics related to work, school, and personal life and will have access to books, literature, research, and other library materials in a variety of formats to meet their need for information.

- **Lifelong Learning** - A library that provides Lifelong Learning service helps address the desire for self-directed personal growth and development opportunities.

Goal 2: All residents of San Francisco will have access to library services that address the need for effective skills relating to finding, evaluating, and using information in a variety of formats.

Goal 3: All residents of San Francisco who have a desire to grow and learn throughout their lives will have the support they need to fulfill their goals.

- **Current Topics and Titles** - A library that provides Current Topics and Titles helps to fulfill community residents' appetite for information about popular cultural and social trends and their desire for satisfying recreational experiences.

Goal 4: All residents of San Francisco will have ready access to current books and library materials in a variety of formats to meet their need for literature and for information about popular culture and social trends.

Goal 5: All residents of San Francisco will have access and opportunity to experience the benefits of the diverse cultural activities the City embraces.

Each service response is expanded upon in the following sections. Readers will find each response has corresponding goals, objectives and activities. Additionally, the service responses were subdivided into four resource areas:

⁷ See Attachment B for a list of all library service responses considered during this process.
San Francisco Public Library Strategic Plan 2003 – 2006

services, collections, information infrastructure and access technology, and facilities. By subdividing each service response, the groups hoped to ensure the planning activities were balanced throughout the Library so that all library services are represented.

One final note: Readers will find the order of the service responses are 1. General Information, 2. Lifelong Learning, and 3. Current Topics and Titles. This order represents the priorities identified by the planning groups. While maintaining the order to preserve the identified priorities, the plan itself strives to create three services of equal importance. This is to say, library staff will strive to treat Current Topics and Titles with the same focus and dedication as are awarded to General Information and Lifelong Learning.

GENERAL INFORMATION

*A library that offers **General Information** helps meet the need for information and answers to questions on a broad array of topics related to work, school, and personal life.*

- Goal 1:** All residents of San Francisco will have questions answered on a broad array of topics related to work, school, and personal life and will have access to books, literature, research, and other library materials in a variety of formats to meet their need for information.

Services

1. Develop and maintain Library programs that are community based, providing programming of interest to neighborhoods. [Goal 1]
 - 1.1 Expand adult programs and exhibits in the branches so residents may attend programs convenient to their home or work.
 - 1.1.1 Incorporate into outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
2. Reach out to targeted audiences throughout the City to inform residents about the information opportunities provided by the Library.
 - 2.1 Enhance outreach services to schools (K-12), preschools and day care centers to encourage reading and love of learning in children.
 - 2.1.1 Incorporate into outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
 - 2.2 Enhance outreach services to adults, seniors, teens, families, persons with disabilities, residents new to the country, and areas of the City identified as low income to inform residents about the information opportunities provided by the Library.
 - 2.2.1 Incorporate into outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
 - 2.3 Improve library services delivered to locations throughout the community, using the Library's bookmobiles and other mobile services that will benefit seniors, adults and children.

- 2.3.1 Incorporate into outreach strategy and Branch Library Improvement Program⁸ interim service plan to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
- 2.3.2 Incorporate advertising of library services on bookmobiles and other library and City vehicles. Incorporate into outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
- 2.3.3 Insure that mobile services are reaching new residents from other countries, economically disadvantaged people, potential users and persons with disabilities by reviewing the demographics and target clientele where visits are scheduled by 2004/05.

Collections

- 3. Improve information resources available for the general public. [Goal 1]
 - 3.1 Collect books and library materials in a variety of formats relevant to each neighborhood, reflecting the history, linguistic diversity, and cultural mosaic of the City.
 - 3.1.1 Create demographic and unique characteristics profile of users, potential users, and online users while also maintaining the Library's commitment to ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of all personal data gathered. To be implemented in 2004/2005.
 - 3.1.2 Respond to outcome of 3.1.1 with ongoing collection monitoring, adjusting purchasing priorities and funds as appropriate, providing each local library with the capability to quickly respond to changes in community needs. To be implemented in 2004/2005 and annually thereafter.
 - 3.2 Remain a state-of-the-art information center providing timely and up-to-date books and materials in the format preferred by individuals.
 - 3.2.1 Enhance professional growth opportunities for staff training to keep current and identify new trends in publishing and services. To be incorporated into annual staff training plan beginning with 2004/2005.

⁸ In November 2000, the voters of San Francisco approved Proposition A, a \$106 million bond to support the seismic, ADA, and technological renovation of nineteen branches, the construction of four new branches to replace branches currently in leased facilities and the construction of a new branch in Mission Bay.

Information Infrastructure and Access Technology

4. Improve access to information and collections by developing and maintaining a robust technological environment. [Goal 1]
 - 4.1 Install wireless capabilities in library facilities so residents may use library services with their own computing devices.
 - 4.1.1 Create a secure and robust network environment that provides for use of wireless devices by June 2005.
 - 4.1.2 Provide wired and wireless devices for in-library use, thus increasing the technological capacity for accessing library services. To be implemented in 2005/2006.
 - 4.1.3 Explore staff use of emerging technologies, such as headsets and hand-held devices, to enhance public service opportunities. Develop recommendations by January 2005.
 - 4.2 Provide remote access to library services including information resources and materials so residents may use the Library from their home or office anytime day or night.
 - 4.2.1 Continue to develop services for electronic users and potential online users by making all library services available in an electronic format. Services to include but are not limited to online library forms (homebound, library card application, suggestion form, and comment form) so that services provided within library facilities are also fully available to online users. To be completed by June 2004.
 - 4.2.2 Continue to develop the Library's website as the primary means of electronic access to information in order to ensure quick and easy retrieval of resources.

Facilities

5. Renovate facilities to reflect the unique characteristics of the neighborhoods they serve and to enhance the library as an inviting place to visit. [Goal 1]
 - 5.1 Enhance teen services, a recognized age group that is currently underserved,⁹ by creating unique physical spaces in appropriate library facilities.
 - 5.1.1 Engage the community, and particularly teens, in the local neighborhood to gather input as part of the community needs assessment for the degree of emphasis for teen services in their local library facility. To be completed prior to facility renovation.
 - 5.2 Design environments that encourage a positive physical experience to sit, read and study.
 - 5.2.1 Establish a staff task force to develop system-wide guidelines for creating a positive experience for library users across the system (coordinate with 17.2.1). Guidelines to be implemented by January 2005.
 - 5.2.2 Develop long term facility maintenance plan by November 2003 for implementation in 2004/2005.

⁹ While all library locations have recognizable areas to welcome adults and children, similar spaces for teens generally are not present. At the very age when we start losing them as readers, teens become an invisible population within the library. In order to encourage them to see the Library as relevant to their lives, it is important that we provide a setting that welcomes them and lets them know that their needs and interests are important and valued.

LIFELONG LEARNING

A library that provides Lifelong Learning service helps address the desire for self-directed personal growth and development opportunities.

- Goal 2:** All residents of San Francisco will have access to library services that address the need for effective skills relating to finding, evaluating, and using information in a variety of formats.
- Goal 3:** All residents of San Francisco who have a desire to grow and learn throughout their lives will have the support they need to fulfill their goals.

Services

6. Provide opportunities for library users to learn how to use the Library's catalog, databases, Internet resources, and to develop their research and computer skills. Emphasize responding to the needs of special population groups, as appropriate. [Goal 2; Goal 3]
 - 6.1 Ensure that persons with disabilities have easy access to information by upgrading ADA-compatible workstations as new technology becomes available, as well as designing online access to library resources for persons with disabilities.
 - 6.2 Provide focused training opportunities to support the development of technology skills of seniors to begin by June 2004 and become ongoing thereafter.
 - 6.3 Continue to train staff in instruction techniques and subject-specific topics to enable staff to provide relevant classes and one-on-one guidance to users. Enhanced training program to be incorporated into the 2004/2005 Library budget.
7. Improve collaboration and communication with educational institutions and preschools to position children and young adults for school and life success. [Goal 2]
 - 7.1 Create learning opportunities for educators and students to incorporate comprehensive instruction on using library resources, including books and materials, and in all formats.

Lifelong Learning: Services continued

- 7.2 Expand library outreach programs with San Francisco Unified School District to incorporate new partnerships in learning and reading among the youth in the City.
 - 7.2.1 Create cooperative agreements with key schools to more fully integrate lifelong learning opportunities for children and youth. To be completed by January 2005.
 - 7.2.2 Enrich the content of formal education by supporting class visits to library facilities as well as library staff regularly visiting classes. Outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by fiscal 2004/2005.
8. Improve programs and services for residents for whom English is not their native language. [Goal 2; Goal 3]
 - 8.1 Each library facility will develop and implement targeted programs and services to respond to the needs of residents in their neighborhood for whom English is not their native language. Outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
9. Provide opportunities for residents to attend and participate in a wide variety of library programs designed to contribute to the individual learning experience. [Goal 3]
 - 9.1 Document the history of San Francisco by expanding community history collections celebrating the uniqueness of neighborhoods. Incorporate into outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
 - 9.2 Enhance the availability of neighborhood photographic archives by digitizing the photographs and making the collections available through the Library's online catalog.
 - 9.3 Expand in-library programs and events such as book talks, book groups, story hours, literacy training, and job fairs to increase personal learning and growth opportunities for library users. Outreach strategy to be developed and implemented by 2004/2005.
 - 9.4 Enhance and maintain the depth of research collections, special collections and the Affinity Centers in the Main Library to assist researchers.
10. Continue to enhance programs that support the Library's role as a clearinghouse for cultural, educational programs, events and exhibitions. [Goal 5]

10.1 Ensure all residents are aware of the full array of library collections and services available by expanding the Library's outreach strategy throughout the City and in collaboration with selected partners in the community.

10.1.1 Establish a staff task force to develop guidelines and specific targets for expanding outreach with a focus on reaching new residents from other countries, economically disadvantaged people, and persons with disabilities. Outreach strategy to be developed and implementation begun by 2004/2005.

10.1.2 Increase representation at street fairs and other community events to encourage neighborhood involvement and to promote library services throughout each year. Incorporate into outreach strategy to be developed and implementation begun by 2004/2005.

Collections

11. Inspire library users and potential users with the joy of reading and learning as core values. [Goal 3]

11.1 Support the individual learning experience by developing and maintaining an extensive collection of books and library materials in a variety of formats on a wide array of topics in an easily accessible manner.

11.1.1 Establish collection goals to reflect the outcomes generated from 14.1.1 and ongoing community input at the local level that is included in the community needs assessment (14.1.2). To be ongoing beginning in fiscal 2004/2005.

11.1.2 Enhance the collections of materials that reflect the linguistic diversity of the City, for residents of all ages. Attain overall goal of 10%¹⁰ of book and materials collection budget dedicated to books in languages other than English. Develop a strategy in 2003/2004 to reach this target in 2005/2006.

11.1.3 Continue to develop access to Library website in Spanish and Chinese and plan for access in Russian, Japanese and other languages.

¹⁰ The level of funding in 2002/2003 was approximately 6% for books and library materials in non-English languages.

Information Infrastructure and Access Technology

12. Facilitate the public's ability to effectively use new materials and technologies to enhance research skills and stay abreast of trends in the delivery of information. [Goal 2]
 - 12.1 Provide expanded technology opportunities for self-directed learning.
 - 12.1.1 Ensure that the Library's technological infrastructure and systems support the development of a comprehensive online learning environment in a variety of subject areas and incorporating the highest attainable quality of learning aids such as online tutorials, pathfinders, webcasts, and/or web links to tutorials in a variety of subjects that will facilitate users access and learning. To begin by June 2004 and ongoing thereafter.
 - 12.2 Expand the Library's program of instruction to include subject-specific topics.
 - 12.2.1 Train staff in instruction techniques and subject-specific topics and provide the technological infrastructure and systems to enable staff to provide relevant classes and one-on-one guidance to users. Enhanced training program to be incorporated into the 2004/2005 Library budget.

Facilities

13. Create vibrant learning environments to encourage use of the Library as a center of learning and fostering a climate of learning and reading. [Goal 3]
 - 13.1 Create reading areas and/or study space to increase the usability, quiet study opportunities and comfort of library facilities by the completion of the Branch Library Improvement Program.
 - 13.1.1 Engage the community in each local neighborhood to gather input as part of the community needs assessment on optimal use of library space for reading areas and/or study space.
 - 13.2 Create flexible Program Rooms, incorporating opportunities for learning labs and homework assistance, in at least 70% of library facilities by the completion of the Branch Library Improvement Program.
 - 13.2.1 Engage the community in each local neighborhood to gather input as part of the community needs assessment on optimal use of library space for library programs.

CURRENT TOPICS AND TITLES

*A library that provides **Current Topics and Titles** helps to fulfill community residents' appetite for literature and information about popular cultural and social trends.*

- Goal 4:** All residents of San Francisco will have ready access to current books and library materials in a variety of formats¹¹ to meet their need for literature and for information about popular culture and social trends.
- Goal 5:** All residents of San Francisco will have access to information and the opportunity to experience through Library services the benefits of the diverse cultural activities the City embraces.

Services

14. Continue to enhance programs that support the Library's role as a clearing house for cultural, educational programs, events and exhibitions. [Goal 5]
- 14.1 Continue to partner with community, arts, educational, corporate, and cultural institutions in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Enhance the information and referral services provided by the Library about those agencies. To be completed by September 2005.
- 14.1.1 Continue to provide programs with partnering institutions such as schools, museums and the business community.
- 14.1.2 Increase the Library's visibility as a key stakeholder in the network of community, arts, educational and cultural institutions through the Library's *San Francisco Community Services Directory*¹² program.
- 14.2 Assist local residents and reach out to potential users in search of current information and events by developing and maintaining web exhibits featuring local activities, current interests and library services. To be implemented by June 2004.

¹¹ Formats include, for example, books, books on tape, DVD's, and CD's.

¹² This service, available from the Library's website, provides users with information about all San Francisco government agencies, health & human service providers, community-based organizations, museums, cultural institutions, community educational centers, neighborhood-oriented groups, and merchants' associations.

- 14.2.1 Train technology, exhibitions, and web staff in the Library's online system and web capabilities to initiate ongoing web exhibits.

Collections

15. Ensure availability of books and library materials in an array of formats that are requested and needed by users. [Goal 4]
- 15.1 Solicit broad-based community input to ensure book and library materials' collections both in English and non-English languages in all facilities reflect community needs for current topics in a variety of formats and languages.
- 15.1.1 Create a community based *Library Collection Development Advisory Committee*¹³ to facilitate communication of community needs. City Librarian to establish committee by January 2004, including stakeholders from Main Library Affinity Centers and other groups.
- 15.1.2 Continue to gather community input at the neighborhood level on desired collections and services for each facility.
- 15.1.3 Evaluate data annually on the use of selected collections to continue to fine tune collection needs, adjusting funding assigned to specific collection areas as appropriate.
- 15.2 Respond to the expressed demand for book and library materials on current topics and titles.
- 15.2.1 Institute a tracking system for reserve fulfillment to determine and improve reduction of wait time for requests of popular materials. To be established by January 2004.
- 15.2.2 Establish library user self-service pick-up of reserve materials in selected locations by July 2004.
- 15.2.3 Expand options for notification of reserves to include telephone notification, as well as by the current options of email or regular mail. To be completed by June 2004.
- 15.2.4 Order more copies of popular titles in anticipation of reserve demands throughout each year.

¹³ This committee will be charged with providing meaningful input to the Library regarding the overall relevancy of book and other library collections in meeting the needs of the communities served by the Library. Composition, meeting frequency, etc to be developed as part of completion of 13.1.1
San Francisco Public Library Strategic Plan 2003 – 2006

Information Infrastructure and Access Technology

16. Provide library user self-help opportunities to facilitate ease of use of, and access to, literature and information. [Goal 4]
 - 16.1 Initiate implementation of next-generation scanning technology (also known as RFID - Radio Frequency Identification¹⁴) for books and other library materials to facilitate users self-service check out of materials, as well as to improve inventory control and loss prevention, resulting in better public service.
 - 16.1.1 Establish staff task force to research, analyze and make recommendations to Library Administration regarding RFID implementation.
 - 16.1.2 Incorporate funding for implementation as part of the 2004/2005 Library budget process. Implementation to begin in 2005/2006.
 - 16.2 Assist users in fulfilling their individual information needs by developing a *My Library*¹⁵ service for customized library services. To be implemented by September 2004.
 - 16.2.1 Continue to develop library services for electronic users who cannot or choose not to visit library buildings by making all library services available in an electronic format. Services to include but are not limited to online library forms (such as homebound, library card application, suggestion form, and comment form) in a variety of languages.
 - 16.2.2 Train technology and web staff in the Library's online system's capabilities to initiate *My Library* service.
 - 16.2.3 Develop an outreach strategy to educate library users on the use of *My Library* and implement in 2004/2005.

¹⁴ *A growing standard for inventory control in the commercial sector, RFID replaces* Replaces barcode or "zebra" label on books and other library materials with a chip that contains information on the item that facilitates fast and easy checkout of each item.

¹⁵ *My Library* incorporates library user flexibility and options in designing personal library accounts, such as receiving electronic recommendations for reading as new books arrive in interest areas designated by the user.

Facilities

17. Improve ability of residents to obtain books and library materials in a variety of formats in a timely manner. [Goal 4]
 - 17.1 Improve delivery of materials throughout the system so that 80%¹⁶ of items requested and available on-shelf are received within three business days at the designated pick-up location.
 - 17.1.1 Restructure delivery services to all locations to improve efficiency and reduce time needed for materials to reach their destination. Incorporate implementation as part of the 2004/2005 Library budget process.
 - 17.2 Implement collection display and organization guidelines to enhance the user experience across the library system.
 - 17.2.1 Establish a staff task force to develop system-wide guidelines for display and organization of books and other materials. Guidelines to be implemented by January 2005 (coordinate with 5.2.1).
 - 17.2.2 Create *Staff Recommends* sections in select locations, as well as virtually on the SFPL website, by January 2004.

¹⁶ Data and analysis from a 2002/2003 delivery study suggests that currently items take up to 4 to 6 days to reach their destination.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Strategic Plan 2003 – 2006 will be realized through the activities, services and resources we provide. Each library facility, program area, and staff member is charged with developing and carrying out this Strategic Plan.

The City Librarian will convene a staff task force to develop measurable results for each of the activities listed in the Strategic Plan. Measurable results will be key to knowing how well each of the objectives is met over time. Also, as called out in the Strategic Plan, additional task forces will be convened to develop system-wide guidelines to create a positive experience and environment for library users, to develop an outreach strategy to further enhance the Library's connection with the community, and to develop an implementation plan for conversion to radio-frequency identification technology. Also, a broad-based committee will be convened to provide an opportunity for a community-based discussion about the Library's collection development policies and procedures.

Resource allocation is a critical element in accomplishing this plan. Each year, as part of the annual budget process, we will return to the Strategic Plan to measure our progress toward achieving our goals, craft new efforts for the coming year, and reallocate resources as needed.

The success of the plan is strongly based upon the continued development of the knowledge, skills and abilities of all library staff, as well as insuring that the broad and rich diversity of the City in language and culture is mirrored by the Library's staff.

CONCLUSION

Throughout our history, the San Francisco Public Library has constantly updated itself to meet the evolving informational and cultural needs of the diverse community we serve. The Strategic Plan 2003 -2006 renews our commitment to excellent public library service. While providing every library facility and program with a unifying organizational vision and system-wide goals, this Strategic Plan is intended to be broad and flexible enough to tailor services to each unique neighborhood. The Strategic Plan also provides a framework to consider opportunities for new programs and services.

The best way to assure that we have an excellent library system well into the future is to continuously reinvent and revitalize ourselves, based on a good understanding of community needs and the ways in which we can respond to those needs. A library that plans makes better decisions, which leads to better library service.

For the coming three years, this plan will shape and guide what we are, what we do, and why we do it.



**San Francisco Public Library
Strategic Plan, 2003-2006**

**Public Hearing, SFPL Library Commission
August 21, 2003, 5:30-7:10pm**

Introductory Materials and 1st Service Response (General Information)

Public Comment

Anonymous – history is flawed, does not include South Park branch; creates impression that planning happens all the time; lack of planning has been the practice

Marcia Popper – emphasis is on a 3-year plan; many programs and services are not reflected in the plan (business, technology, music, children, etc.); does not infer these are not important services

Peter Warfield – should be general and specific to include all services; where is history? Where are books? Where are references to social and civic life; very narrow goal; uses a 'canned methodology'

Melissa Riley (Librarians Guild) – does not include fiscal implications for the chosen priorities; short shrift to space, services and staff, ranking of 3 priorities then putting on equal level is unclear

Marty Goddard (special needs advocate) – as a staff member, this felt good to read; includes all residents; can use to support work

Roberto Esteves (retired librarian) – plan is exciting; has vision and a way to evaluate services; will need to prioritize some activities

Commission Discussion

- "All residents" cannot be achieved, recommend lowering the standards of the goals; library will be sued if this language is used; bound by time – only until 2006
- 3.1.1 language re: privacy (recommended change)

2nd Service Response (Lifelong Learning)

Public Comment

Anonymous – should be strongest priority but is the weakest; is amorphous; attracts new users but the library is an intimidating place; plan provides for 'little' programs

Peter Warfield – where does this fit with larger plan? Will this spawn other documents? Pp. 9 'overall needs of the San Francisco Community' does not indicate what is left out

West Portal User (young man with his father) – enjoys using the library

Ang Lee (sp?) – West Portal user (father) encourages thinking through and conducting needs assessments before implementing much self-service; plan should enhance quality of service; adequate staffing, e.g. reference staff, should be preserved; outreach is good, but not at expense of staffing; encourages branch staff, including circulation staff, should be maintained at excellent levels

Marcia Popper – Notes privacy issues (from previous section) are covered in values section

Melissa Riley – pp. discusses privacy; Board of Supervisors language uses the word "support" (recommended change); librarians barely able to cover desks, outreach and programs are problematic for service; outreach inside library buildings is also important

Commission Discussion

- Outreach, like all programs and activities, will have a next step which will include staff assessing and implementing what can be done; implementation is not addressed in this phase of the planning process
- Shouldn't add too much to what staff is already doing; shift activities to other capable groups such as the Friends, volunteers, etc.
- Discuss wireless and its implementation since out-dated technology is a continuing concern for youth (recommended follow-up presentation to the Commissioners)

3rd Service Response (Current Topics and Titles) and closing material

Public Comment

Anonymous – S. Hildreth makes moot her plan of "modern service trends" by not including most or all library programs in the document; role of librarian changed to 'navigator' with more help desks using Internet browsers; pp. 20 15.1.1 concern over Collection Development Advisory Committee including 'stakeholders' to choose books

Peter Warfield – Plan should be a high-level document, not a discussion of detail; current topics and titles is either too limited or too broad; pp. 21 reference to RFID was quoted as costing approximately \$1million in a letter to the Board yet isn't clear how it relates to Current Topics and Titles

Melissa Riley – 15.1.1 Advisory Committee includes only the Main Library Affinity Centers and should include other interested groups (recommended change to wording); preservation and conservation of materials is not included; rapid delivery has staffing and ergonomic implications; encourages don't diminish the value of browsing collections.

Roberto Esteves – RFID assists in inventory control and automated routing; proven technology in the commercial world for keeping materials available to the public

Commission Discussion

- Clarify RFID is part of a world-wide trend, not just a library technology; RFID allows ability to find misplaced materials easily so items aren't lost for long periods of time (recommended change)
- Clarify establishment of staff task forces and committees is the City Librarian's purview, not a commission role
- Identify budget items, prepare a staff presentation on RFID

Summary Comments

Public Comments

Anonymous – recognizes the hard work of all involved with the planning; encourages remaining relevant; keep core values and remove barriers for users

Laura Lynn (Librarian) – sees public input in the plan; supports the plan and the added challenge to push library forward; plan accurately reflects public's direction and desire for service; includes linguistic diversity; online automation system and vendors will help address the stated needs

Melissa Riley - notes conflict between traditional literature and popular materials; likes the plan refers to 'users' and not 'customers'

Toni Bernardi (Librarian) – plan is broad in scope; place for children, teens and all user groups in all parts; the plan is not segregated; high-quality teen collections where teens ask for what they want, especially electronic resources, computers and graphic novels.

Peter Warfield – unclear what is purpose and context for the plan. What is the use? Measurables? Will other services be forgotten? Library is source for other

materials no longer in bookstores; would wish the plan included something about collection breadth and depth

Roberto Esteves – technology and services to move the library forward; library is trustworthy; not throwing collections away

Commission Discussion

- Collection sections provides extensive stressing of collection
- 1st step in right direction; find where we are lacking
- provides a start and not an end
- "Draft" will become "Final Draft" and changes will be indicated
- Question re: written comments: A means for submitting written comments was provided and none were received
- "A fine plan."
- Provides "reliable and responsible" stewardship for the future
- Is idealistic (which is OK) and the practical (which is sometimes too ambitious)
- Needs to address more of 'what are we going to deliver'



FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY
BRANCH LIBRARY CAMPAIGN
GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY
AUGUST 2003

DRAFT

PURPOSE

The purpose of recognition is to commemorate the gifts of all donors. Therefore, all gifts to the Branch Library campaign will be recognized. Donors who prefer to remain anonymous will indicate this preference on their campaign pledge form.

Distinct from recognition is the naming of specific funds, programs, facilities and fixtures associated with the Branch Library Campaign. The purpose of naming is to inspire exceptional giving at levels that enable the campaign to attain its goal within the anticipated time period of five to seven years. Naming opportunities are based on gifts received during the campaign period.

There may be cases where the objectives of a donor require special consideration. Friends and Foundation staff will assist donors in designing gifts that match donors' interests with those of the Library.

POLICY

Types of Recognition:

All branch gifts will be acknowledged in a permanent book titled "The Honor Roll of Gifts" at each branch library. This book will be displayed or shelved in a prominent location under protective cover and updated as new donations come into the branch library through the duration of the campaign.

All gifts of \$1,000 and more will be acknowledged with permanent recognition on a plaque or other publicly visible fixture at the branch location in an area designated by the Library.

All gifts of \$5,000 to \$25,000 will be acknowledged as above in a distinct category for special gifts and with the additional option to place a name plate on any fixture or furniture universal to all branches such as the end of book stacks or tables and chairs. Friends and Foundation will create a "catalogue" of selected items appropriate for name plates in the branches.

All gifts of \$25,000 to \$100,000 will be acknowledged as above with a distinct category for major gifts and with the additional option to place a name plate adjacent to a room or other specifically designated area within the branch library. In either case the naming recognition for spaces/ rooms will read as follows:
" _____ room/space is made possible through the generous donation of _____."

All gifts of \$100,000 and up will be acknowledged as above with a distinct category for leadership gifts and with the additional option of permanent recognition for the citywide branch campaign at the Main Library. Donors at this level (gifts of \$100,000 or more) of giving may request recognition at one or more branch libraries benefiting from their donation.

Any exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Friends & Foundation, in conjunction with the City Librarian.

SEP 15 2003

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

San Francisco Public Library Commission

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4733

Phone 415.557.4233, Fax 415.557.4240

NOTICE OF MEETING

A regular meeting of the San Francisco Public Library Commission will be held as follows:

DATE: Thursday, September 18, 2003
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: Koret Auditorium, Main Library, lower level

The meeting will be called to order.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES **ACTION**

Presentation of, discussion of, and possible action to approve the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of August 21, 2003.
 Explanatory document: draft Minutes

2. BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT **DISCUSSION**

(This is a discussion item to allow the Branch Library Bond Program Manager to report on recent bond program related activities and make announcements.)

This report will consist of *an informational presentation*: none; *regular reports*: program budget and schedule; active projects; and community outreach; and *special reports*; none.

Explanatory documents: current Budget Report and Branch Library Summary Schedules

3. GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY **ACTION**

Presentation and discussion of and possible action to approve a proposed Gift Recognition Policy.

Explanatory document: draft Gift Recognition Policy

4. LIBRARY HISTORY PLAQUES **DISCUSSION**

Presentation of and discussion of a proposal to create a series of plaques chronicling the history of the San Francisco Public Library from its beginnings until the present and honoring those who made significant contributions to be located in the Larkin Street entrance of the Main Library.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

(This item is to allow members of the public to comment generally on matters within the Commission's purview as well as to suggest new agenda items for the Library Commission's consideration.)

6. ADJOURNMENT (requires motion and public comment) **ACTION**

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the Commission Secretary/Custodian of Records, Main Library, 6th Floor, (2) in the rear of the Koret Auditorium immediately before and during the meeting, and (3) to the extent possible, on the Library's website at <http://sfpl.org>.

Additional materials not listed as explanatory documents on this agenda, if any, that are distributed to the Library Commissioners prior to or during the meeting in connection with any agenda item will be available to the public for inspection and copying in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.1 and Sunshine Ordinance §§ 67.9, 67.28(b) & 67.28(d).

9/15/03 - M.Housh, Commission Secretary

Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Charles A. Higuera, A.L.A.
President

Carol Steiman
Vice President

Helen Marte Bautista
Lonnice K. Chin
Steven A. Coulter
Fran A. Streets
Deborah Strobin
Commissioners

Susan Hildreth
City Librarian

Michael Housh
Commission Secretary



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION - Accessible Meetings Policy

TO ENSURE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DISABLED PUBLIC IN ALL COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETINGS, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CONCERNING ACCESSIBILITY WILL BE AVAILABLE:

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS OR NOTE TAKERS WILL BE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. PLEASE CONTACT SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED AT 415/557-4433 (TDD) OR 415/557-4434 (VOICE) AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. LATE REQUESTS WILL BE HONORED IF POSSIBLE.

A SOUND ENHANCEMENT SYSTEM WILL BE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AT THE MEETINGS. PLEASE CONTACT SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED AT 415/557-4433 (TDD) OR 415/557-4434 (VOICE) AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. LATE REQUESTS WILL BE HONORED IF POSSIBLE.

A PERSON WHO IS DEAF OR HEARING IMPAIRED MAY GAIN MEETING INFORMATION PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY CALLING 415/557-4433 (TDD) OR 415/557-4434 (VOICE). IN ADDITION, THE CALIFORNIA RELAY SERVICE CAN BE USED BY INDIVIDUALS WITH HEARING AND SPEECH IMPAIRMENTS BY CALLING 1-800/735-2929 (TDD) OR 1-800/735-2992 (VOICE).

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS. IF YOU REQUIRE THE USE OF A READER DURING THE MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT HANDICAPPED AT 415/557-4253 AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE NEED.

INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE ALLERGIES, ENVIRONMENTAL ILLNESS, MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY OR RELATED DISABILITIES SHOULD CALL THE ACCESSIBILITY HOTLINE AT 415/554-8925 TO DISCUSS MEETING ACCESSIBILITY. IN ORDER TO ASSIST SAN FRANCISCO'S EFFORTS TO ACCOMMODATE SUCH PEOPLE, ATTENDEES AT PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE REMINDED THAT OTHER ATTENDEES MAY BE SENSITIVE TO VARIOUS CHEMICAL-BASED PRODUCTS. PLEASE HELP THE CITY TO ACCOMMODATE THESE INDIVIDUALS.

LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE MAIN LIBRARY, 100 LARKIN STREET AT GROVE, LOWER LEVEL, KORET AUDITORIUM, EXCEPT WHEN OTHERWISE NOTICED. THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. THE CLOSEST ACCESSIBLE BART STATION IS CIVIC CENTER. THE ACCESSIBLE MUNI LINE SERVING THIS LOCATION IS THE #19 POLK. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT MUNI'S ACCESSIBLE SERVICE, PLEASE CALL 415/923-6142.

THERE IS ACCESSIBLE PARKING AVAILABLE AT 355 McALLISTER, CIVIC CENTER PLAZA GARAGE. CALL 415/863-1537.

ACCESSIBLE SEATING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (INCLUDING THOSE USING WHEELCHAIRS) WILL BE AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS.

THE RINGING OF AND USE OF CELL PHONES, PAGERS AND SIMILAR SOUND-PRODUCING ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE PROHIBITED AT THIS MEETING. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE CHAIR MAY ORDER THE REMOVAL FROM THE MEETING ROOM OF ANY PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RINGING OR USE OF A CELL PHONE, PAGER, OR OTHER SIMILAR SOUND PRODUCING ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

GOVERNMENT'S DUTY IS TO SERVE THE PUBLIC, REACHING ITS DECISIONS IN FULL VIEW OF THE PUBLIC. COMMISSIONS, BOARDS, COUNCILS AND OTHER AGENCIES OF THE CITY AND COUNTY EXIST TO CONDUCT THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS. THIS ORDINANCE ASSURES THAT DELIBERATIONS ARE CONDUCTED BEFORE THE PEOPLE AND THAT CITY OPERATIONS ARE OPEN TO THE PEOPLE'S REVIEW.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 67 OF THE SAN FRANCISCO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE) OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT DONNA HALL, ADMINISTRATOR, THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE, CITY HALL, ROOM 409 1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-4689 OR AT 415/554-7724 PH. 415/554-5163 FAX AND WEBSITE AT DONNA_HALL@sfgov.org. COPIES OF THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CLERK OF THE SUNSHINE TASK FORCE, THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.SFGOV.ORG/SUNSHINE

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

ATTENTION: INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES THAT INFLUENCE OR ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE LOCAL LEGISLATIVE OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE [SF CAMPAIGN & GOVERNMENTAL CONDUCT CODE SEC. 2.100] TO REGISTER AND REPORT LOBBYING ACTIVITY. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOBBYIST ORDINANCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE ETHICS COMMISSION AT 30 VAN NESS AVENUE, SUITE 3900, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102, TELEPHONE (415) 581-2300, FAX (415) 581-2317 AND WEB SITE: [SFGOV.ORG/ETHICS](http://sfgov.org/ethics).

MICHAEL HOUSH, COMMISSION SECRETARY

9/11/03

DRAFT

OCT 03 2003



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY

San Francisco Public Library Commission
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4733
Phone 415.557.4233, Fax 415.557.4240

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Draft Minutes of the regular meeting of Thursday, September 18, 2003.
The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday,
September 18, 2003 in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

Vice President Steiman called the meeting to order at 4:02PM.

The following members were noted present: Commissioners Bautista, Coulter, Steiman,
and Strobin. Commissioner Chin's arrival was expected to be delayed. Commissioners
Higueras and Streets were excused.

AGENDA ITEM #1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE August 21, 2003
COMMISSION MEETING

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE
August 21, 2003 COMMISSION MEETING

An anonymous member of the public commented that draft versions of several previous
Commission Minutes were still posted on the website although those Minutes had been
approved. This person also noted that while a public comment was described the
original discussion it was based on was not. This individual further criticized the
description of President Higuera's letter to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Ed Regan
found his remarks accurately reported. Mr. Peter Warfield commented that he found
comments reported abbreviated and requested clarification of his page 5 remarks
concerning too many books on tape. Mr. Warfield also found lacking the Strategic Plan
discussion on RFID and noted that space for books was not mentioned.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
OF THE August 21, 2003 COMMISSION MEETING

Vice President Steiman suggested accepting Mr. Warfield's request that his reported
remarks be changed from "too many taped books in a branch library collection" to read
"too many in the branch's proposed Literacy Program". Commissioner Coulter
requested a clarification of a Public Comment reference to the anonymous member of
the public's lawsuit clearly identifying it as this person's lawsuit.

MOTION: Commissioner Bautista, seconded by Commissioner Coulter that the August
21, 2003 Minutes be approved as amended.

ACTION: AYE 4-0 (Bautista, Coulter, Steiman and Strobin)

Commissioner Chin joined the meeting at 4:12PM

Please note: These are draft Minutes subject to change by the Library Commission. Copies of Commission Minutes
and handouts are available in the Office of the Commission Secretary, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

6

8/03
at

Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Charles A. Higuera, A.A.
President

Carol Steiman
Vice President

Helen Marte Bautista

Lonnie K. Chin

Steven A. Coulter

Fran A. Streets

Deborah Strobin
Commissioners

Susan Hildreth
City Librarian

Michael Housh
Commission Secretary



AGENDA ITEM #2 BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Branch Library Improvement Program Manager Marilyn Thompson noted that this month that there would be no informational or special reports. The Branch Improvement Program Manager cited a total of \$12,947,804 in expenditures and encumbrances through the end of August 2003. Ms. Thompson noted that a budget report dated 9/18/03 and a 4/17/03 schedule report were available and then presented her regular Budget, Schedule, Active Projects, and Community Outreach updates reports (copies attached). The Branch Library Improvement Program Manager the reported that the BLIP website was up to date and that the Fall edition of the Branch Library improvement Program Newsletter was available.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #2 BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

An anonymous member of the public inquired as to what was meant by the report that the cost of the new Mission Bay Branch was within its current budget. Mr. Peter Warfield commented that the Branch Library Improvement Program Manager's report materials were not available in advance and asked about the details of the Mission Bay branch cost and what any changes in the proposed branch involved. Mr. Ed Regan found the presentation useful and suggested that Ms. Thompson's reports also include information on branch collections and hours of service. Mr. Regan also urged consideration of a pamphlets room in each branch library.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #2 BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Responding to a question by Vice President Steiman concerning Mission Bay Branch changes, Ms. Thompson reported loss of roughly 100 sq. ft. of staff and service space and a somewhat smaller community room space in Redevelopment's revised building design that also lowered the entire building by one story. Ms. Thompson noted that these changes should have no impact on public services spaces as previously presented. Ms. Thompson reported that some shared costs would be reduced as a result of the design changes.

AGENDA ITEM #3 GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY

City Librarian Susan Hildreth presented an overview of the revised Gift Recognition Policy calling attention to the changes in the draft proposal. Ms. Hildreth noted that, with Commission approval of this policy, the Friends and the Library would have similar policies in support of the Neighborhood Libraries Campaign.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #3 GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY

An anonymous member of the public commented that they would prefer that the entire proposal be rejected and noted that the Friends And Foundation Campaign would receive expanded authority over naming formerly reserved to the Library. This person commented on changes in the approval of areas in a branch library where recognition

could be made. Mr. Peter Warfield commented that not all changes in the text were marked and that changes were difficult to follow. Mr. Warfield recommended that the Library Commission be specifically identified as the authority to approve changes and that the Commission should review and approve changes in the catalog of items as well as exceptions to the policy itself

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #3 GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY

Vice President Steiman noted that both the old and revised version of the Gift Recognition Policy were available so that anyone could easily follow the proposed changes. The Commission Vice President proposed that the revised policy be additionally amended to read “and the Library Commission will approve the items in this catalog” in the approval language at the bottom of Page 1 of the 9/15/03 draft. In response to a question by Commissioner Bautista, Ms Doyle, President of the Friends, described the change of use of the Friends & Foundation to the simpler Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. Commissioner Coulter found the revised policy short and to the point and a reasonable way of addressing the issue. In answer to a question by Commissioner Chin, the listing of naming options was described.

MOTION: Commissioner Bautista, seconded by Commissioner Steiman for approval of the proposed Gift Recognition Policy as revised.

ACTION: AYE 5-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Steiman, and Strobin)

AGENDA ITEM # 4 LIBRARY HISTORY PLAQUES

Commissioner Steve Coulter recounted a background description of the sources he used and how he developed the proposed Library Wall of Heroes’ text. Commissioner Coulter called attention to the numerous sources, among them Peter Booth Wiley’s definitive history of the San Francisco Public Library as well as for more recent times, the knowledge and memories of Library staff such as Public Affairs Chief Marcia Schneider, City Archivist Susan Goldstein, and Andrea Grimes of Book Arts and Special Collections as well as Library civic activists like Margaret “Mig” Meyer, Marjorie Stern, and many others. Commissioner Coulter noted that the proposed text covered a complex history from 1849 until the present with a wide array of milestones and countless citizen volunteers who had sustained the Library through many difficult and challenging decades. Commissioner Coulter pointed out that this draft was as yet an evolving imperfect document and requested that those with specific comments on ways its accuracy could be improved as well as any overlooked stories that would make it a better document come forward. Commissioner Coulter noted that this was but the first of three planned public discussions of this proposal and that an overview layout version would be prepared for a future discussion to provide a demonstration of that how the plaques would look.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM # 4 LIBRARY HISTORY PLAQUES

An anonymous member of the public found the proposed terrible and expressed regret

that they had not understood that this history had already been approved in principle. This person expressed a preference for a simple recognition of the principles guiding the library instead of walls of text. This individual commented that it was a fact of history that "heroes" could change. Mr. Ed Regan thought the proposed plaques a good idea and urged the Commission to go forward with them including a book which set forth the history outlined on the plaques.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM # 4 LIBRARY HISTORY PLAQUES

In response to questions by Commissioner Bautista it was reported that there were extensive video records of recent library history and that it was possible that this material could be made available on the library's website or in a brochure. Additionally, Commissioner Coulter described the space available in the Larkin Street entry area noting that the Library's Associate Architects Simon Martin-Vege Winkelstein Moris (SMWM) believed there was ample room for these plaques as well as space remaining additional history plaques should future Library Commissions wish to record subsequent history. Commissioner Coulter repeated his request that anyone who wished to offer specific comments for corrections, improvements, or expansion of stories not addressed in the current draft bring them forward. Commissioner Chin expressed a preference for a less detailed recounting of the history, not just a recitation of the passing of time, and instead inspirational text inviting its readers to continue to be heroes for the Library. Commissioner Chin expressed concern that so much text would be boring and that short powerful statements in the words of library heroes would have a greater impact. Commissioner Strobin expressed support for the proposed history as presented and inquired regarding a timeline for comment. Vice President Steiman called attention to the missing story of the small group of neighborhood activists who took action to save their branch libraries when they were threatened with closure and the subsequent creation of the Council for Neighborhood Libraries. Commissioner Bautista noted that the contribution of outstanding civic volunteers should be highlighted. Commissioner Chin suggested additions to address the inclusion of other languages and special collections such as the Japanese Collection at the Western Addition Branch and its African American community support. Commissioner Bautista recommended inclusion of the names of the donor of this collection and found this draft an excellent first effort.

AGENDA ITEM #5 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous member of the public commented that the previous discussion was interesting and gave credit to Vice President Steiman for speaking her mind even if this person found much to criticize in her views. Mr. Ed Regan recommended that all libraries be open from 6AM until Midnight, seven days per week, 365 days per year. Mr. Regan additionally proposed that there be table that permitted one to read while standing and comfortable chairs in each branch. Mr. Regan also suggested inspection of the usage of non-fiction collections so as to identify and replenish those titles in greatest demand.

AGENDA ITEM #6 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Chin, seconded by Commissioner Coulter that the meeting be adjourned.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #6 ADJOURNMENT

None offered

ACTION: AYE 5-0 (Bautista, Chin, Higuera, Steiman, and Strobin)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32PM.

Michael Housh, Commission Secretary 9/23/03

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Minutes of the special Commission Meeting of September 18, 2003

Appendix A

The Public Comment Summary Statements included in these Minutes are authorized by San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.16..

These summary statements are provided by the speaker. Their contents are neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by, the San Francisco Public Library Commission.

The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Minutes of the special Commission Meeting of September 18, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 18, 2003

Item 1:

Approval of the Minutes: August 21, 2003

“Both of the meetings in April have draft minutes posted on the website, as well as the two meetings in June. That means that of the last eight meetings of this Library Commission five of them are draft on the website.

The Sunshine Task Force has gotten the message, and now it is time to fix those minutes.

A frequent issue is whether you address controversies head-on, so that a reader could understand a controversy.

Under general public comment, it says an anonymous citizen commented on Ms. Steiman’s comments concerning lawsuit. But Ms. Steiman made no comments whatsoever. So a reader of these minutes would have no idea what was being discussed. Similarly, on approval of the minutes, the reference is to Mr. Higuera’s letter to the Board. The subject of those comments was about the burial of the subject of that letter in the previous minutes.”

Minutes of the special Commission Meeting of September 18, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 18, 2003

Item 2:

Bond Program Manager's Report

"I want to complement you on this controversy-free report.

I want to thank you for providing a hard copy of the slides that are projected. It does help to follow the presentation.

One thing that perked up my ears was Mission Bay. It was said that the Mission Bay budget has been revised and is now within the current budget. What current means and what the revision is, are details we would like to know. We previously heard that we were losing square footage in that branch. Now we would like to know the dollar reduction and what we mean by the current budget.

We can all join together to say, 'On schedule, on budget, on program.' As a matter fact, I look forward to you returning to that refrain, on schedule, on budget and on program."

Minutes of the special Commission Meeting of September 18, 2003

Appendix A

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 18, 2003

Item 3:

Gift Recognition Policy

"I would reject the entire thing.

When I heard that this was the library's policy, I thought that all we have to do is put the Friends & Foundation name in once and that will be it. But, this is gift recognition to a Neighborhood Library Campaign which is wholly-owned by a private group called the Friends & Foundation.

I appreciate in principle the fact that you put in italics the changes from the previous draft. In practice, it is still necessary to nitpick for unmarked changes.

The phrase 'donor recognition will include' replaced in the previous draft the words 'distinct from recognition.' Meaning those recognitions were reserved and not part of this program.

Later, the phrase 'approved by the library' replaced the words 'designated by the library.' The distinction is that now the Foundation will designate the area and the library can disapprove it at its peril.

Not a positive direction."

Minutes of the special Commission Meeting of September 18, 2003

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 18, 2003

Item 4:

Library History Plaques

“Let me begin by saying, ‘This is terrible.’

I am shocked that this has already been approved in concept at the approval of a modest little plaque regarding keepers of the dream.

This continues the tradition of honoring something huge in behind one toe through the door.

Many people are heroes in their own context. Then the context changes and we don’t look back and see those people as heroes any longer, but they become a part of history.

I can’t object to honoring people with a sense of commitment and volunteer their time.

There is a lot here about honoring people who got their gold out of the hills of California and beat a hasty retreat. Some limited honoring of broad principles would be good.

As Mr. Coulter noted, this is rife with errors. You don’t have a commitment from the people who would help you correct it.”

Minutes of the special Commission Meeting of September 18, 2003

Appendix A

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, September 18, 2003

Item 5:

Public Comment

“I often say, ‘the good die young.’ If that is true, I am way too old already. Having learned the lessons that I have learned, it is fair to chastize me because I was not born yesterday.

The bad side is that when someone says to me, ‘this is a sincere request,’ who has played ‘haw, haw, we lied’ for decades, I know there is no such thing. A sincere request from that person just does not exist.

I give more credence to Ms. Steiman than other commissioners. She does not completely think through the effect of what she says. Therefore, she is not conniving. At the last meeting, Ms. Steiman said that certain people just complain and the Friends & Foundation are doing. That means that efforts on behalf of decency, democracy, and justice are all just talk, and it comes down to money. We have learned that lesson, haven’t we?”

Library Commission

September 18, 2003

1. Approval of the Minutes

Explanatory document:
Draft Minutes August 21, 2003

2. Bond Program Manager's Report

Informational Presentation

None

Regular Reports

Budget Report
Schedule Report
Active Projects Reports
Community Outreach Update

Budget Report

Explanatory document:
Current Budget Report dated 9/18/03

Budget Report

- Recap:

10-10-01 Baseline Budget & Reserve established
11-15-01 Glen Park increased \$88,000 for site acquisition
01-17-02 Increased Reserve for Prop 14 (reduced all projects 5%)
05-16-02 Art Enrichment Program Funded (\$302,000 from 6 projects)
06-20-02 Mission Bay increased \$653,000 for site acquisition
12-20-02 Ingleside increased \$455,000 for site acquisition
02-20-03 Friends & Foundation Budget for FF&E updated
04-17-03 VVA increased \$716,000 for site acquisition
06-26-03 DRE increased \$115,281
TODAY no changes

Schedule Report

Explanatory document:

Summary Schedule dated 4/17/03

Schedule Report

- Recap:

10-10-01 Baseline Schedule established
12-20-01 Revised Glen Park to match Developer's schedule
01-17-02 Issued detailed schedules for Phases 1-2
02-21-02 Revised to reflect Prop 14 strategy
Revised Mission Bay to match Developer's schedule
03-21-02 Issued detailed schedules for all Phases
04-18-02 Revised to reflect Prop 14 strategy
06-20-02 Adjusted projects for geographic distribution
04-17-03 Revised to reflect revised Prop 14 strategy
Revised Mission Bay to match Developer's schedule
Revised Glen Park to match Developer's schedule
TODAY No changes

Active Projects Reports New Construction

- Mission Bay
 - GMP approved
 - Groundbreaking
- Glen Park
 - Purchase & Sale Agreement

Active Projects Reports New Construction

- Ingleside

- Closing
- Prop 14 Application
- Planning Dept. Reviews
- Contract Negotiations (Fougeron / Group 4)
- Public Art

- Portola

- Purchase & Sale Agreement
- Prop 14 Application
- Subdivision
- Planning Dept. Reviews
- Contract Negotiations (Stoner Meek / Noll & Tam)
- Public Art

Active Projects Reports New Construction

- Visitation Valley
 - Closing
 - Planning Dept. Reviews
 - Prop 14 Application
 - Conceptual Design Phase

Active Projects Reports Renovations

- **Richmond**
 - Prop 14 Determination 10/28
 - Design Development Phase
- **Excelsior**
 - Bidding
 - Closing for Construction
- **Noe Valley**
 - Building Assessments
 - Design Workshop
 - Conceptual Design Phase

Active Projects Reports Renovations

- **Marina**
 - Planning & Programming Phase
 - Contract Negotiations (Tom Elliot Fisch / Field Paoli)
- **Parkside**
 - On hold
- **North Beach**
 - Planning & Programming Phase
 - Contract Negotiations (Ledy Maytum Stacy)
 - Triangle Property

Active Projects Reports Renovations

- **Ortega**
 - Prop 14 Application
 - Coordination with RPD & DCP
- **Sunset**
 - Contract Negotiations (Fougeron)
 - Community Survey
 - Landmark Status
 - Accelerated Schedule
- **West Portal**
 - Contract Negotiations (Thomas Hacker)
 - Community Survey

Community Outreach Update

- **Library meetings:**
 - 9/20 Visitacion Valley Community Meeting
 - 9/23 Ortega Community Meeting
 - 10/4 & 9 Noe Valley Design Workshop
 - 10/14 Ingleside Community Meeting
- **Library invited:**
 - 9/6 Leland Yee's Richmond Town Hall Meeting
 - 9/8 SF Youth Commission
 - 9/20 Westwood Park Association
 - 9/23 Richmond District Democratic Club
 - 9/27 Sunset Neighborhood Festival
 - 9/28 San Bruno Street Festival
 - 10/4 Visitacion Valley Neighborhood Day
 - 10/16 Planning Association for the Richmond

Community Outreach Update

- **Other City Boards/Commissions:**
 - 9/16 Bd of Sups (Cleo Park property purchase)
 - 9/16 SFRA Commission (Mission Bay)
 - 9/17 Landmarks Board (Sunset & Presidio)
- **Web Site & Newsletter**
 - www.sfpd.org/news/96toimprovementorsgram.htm
 - Newsletter issued quarterly

Special Reports

None

3. Gift Recognition Policy

Explanatory documents:
Draft Gift Recognition Policy

4. Library History Plaques

5. Public Comment

6. Adjournment



San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

Memorandum

TO: Library Commission

FROM: Susan Hildreth, City Librarian *SH*

RE: GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY – Neighborhood Library Campaign

DATE: September 15, 2003

BACKGROUND

The Friends of the San Francisco Public Library has made a commitment to raise \$16 million in private funds to furnish and equip the branch libraries that will be renovated and built as part of the Branch Library Improvement Program. This private fundraising effort requires the creation of a gift recognition policy that will be used to inspire campaign giving to reach the \$16 million goal. A policy has been developed by the Friends in consultation with its Board, senior and branch library staff and various constituent groups such as the Council of Neighborhood Libraries. Because the policy will impact the “look and feel” of the interior space for each branch library, it is being presented to the Commission for approval.

You discussed the policy at your September 4, 2003, meeting and made suggestions that have been included in this version. Attached are the initial draft and the 9/15/03 draft. I am asking for your action to approve this policy on September 18, 2003.

9/15/03 DRAFT

PLEASE NOTE – CHANGES FROM 9/4/03 VERSION ARE NOTED IN ITALICS.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY CAMPAIGN
GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY
SEPTEMBER 2003

PURPOSE

The purpose of recognition is to commemorate the gifts of all donors. Therefore, all gifts to the *Neighborhood Library* campaign will be recognized. Donors who prefer to remain anonymous will indicate this preference on their campaign pledge form.

Donor recognition will include the naming of specific funds, programs, facilities, spaces and fixtures associated with the Neighborhood Library Campaign being sponsored by the Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library.

The purpose of naming is to inspire exceptional giving at levels that enable the campaign to attain its goal within the anticipated time period of five to seven years. Naming opportunities are based on gifts received during the campaign period.

There may be cases where the objectives of a donor require special consideration. Friends and Foundation staff will assist donors in designing gifts that match donors' interests with those of the Library.

POLICY

Types of Recognition:

All branch gifts will be acknowledged in a permanent book titled "The Honor Roll of Gifts" that will become a part of the permanent collection of each branch library. During the campaign, this book will be displayed or shelved in a prominent location at the branch library, under protective cover and updated as new donations for the branch library are received.

All gifts of \$1,000 and more will be acknowledged with permanent recognition on a plaque or other publicly visible fixture placed in the branch location in an area approved by the Library.

All gifts of \$5,000 to \$25,000 will be acknowledged as above in a distinct category for special gifts and with the additional option to place a name plate on any fixture or furniture universal to all branches such as the end of book stacks or tables and chairs. Friends and Foundation will create a "catalogue" of selected items appropriate for name plates in the branches. *The Library will approve the items in this catalogue.*

Ammission

All gifts of \$25,000 to \$100,000 will be acknowledged as above with a distinct category for major gifts and with the additional option to place a name plate adjacent to a room or other specifically designated area within the branch library. In either case the naming recognition for spaces/ rooms will read as follows:
“ _____ room/space is made possible through the generous donation from
_____.”

All gifts of \$100,000 and up will be acknowledged as above with a distinct category for leadership gifts and with the additional option of permanent recognition for the citywide *Neighborhood Library Campaign* at the Main Library. Donors at this level (gifts of \$100,000 or more) of giving may request recognition at one or more branch libraries benefiting from their donation.

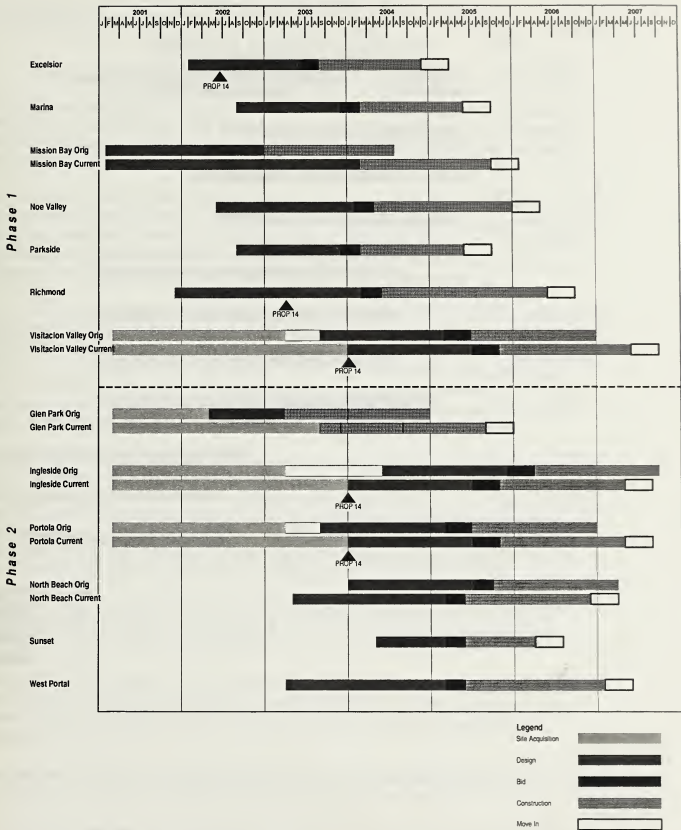
The Library Commission must approve all and any exceptions to this policy.

EXPENDITURES/ENCUMBRANCES	REVENUE				FUND STATUS		Actual 3/18/03 B	New This Month
	City Prop. A Bonds	State Prop. 14	Other Sources	Total All Sources	Appropriated	Total Available		
BUDGET								
Phase 0 Projects								
GP 7514A Glen Park	1,770,000	3,428,000	(4)	3,428,000	3,475,250	3,475,250	118,192	0
IN 7515A Ingleside	1,770,000	1,025,000	(4)	1,025,000	2,225,000	2,225,000	112,737	10,607
NI 7516A Norwood	3,070,000	1,070,000	(4)	1,070,000	1,770,000	1,770,000	45,369	5,566
NV 7517A New Valley	2,160,000	700,000	(4)	700,000	1,770,000	1,770,000	8,541,500	20,746
SC 7520A Support Services	6,628,000	6,628,000	(4)	6,628,000	6,628,000	6,628,000	8,541,500	20,746
SUBTOTAL	16,480,000	18,855,000	0	18,855,000	18,348,250	18,348,250	8,658,108	36,963
Phase 1 Projects								
EX 7525A Excelsior	3,629,000	3,629,000	(4)	3,629,000	3,629,000	3,629,000	627,079	15,677
MR 7510A Mariner	3,110,000	3,054,500	(4)	3,054,500	3,054,500	3,054,500	43,108	0
NI 7511A Norwood	4,110,000	3,984,500	(4)	3,984,500	3,984,500	3,984,500	976,125	43,108
NV 7511A New Valley	4,189,500	4,189,500	(4)	4,189,500	4,189,500	4,189,500	3,657,000	296,411
PS 7512A Parkside	2,880,000	2,736,000	(4)	2,736,000	2,736,000	2,736,000	86,204	749
RV 7513A Richmond	4,160,000	4,160,000	(4)	4,160,000	4,160,000	4,160,000	86,204	749
VI 7513A Visitation Valley	3,630,000	7,141,500	(2)	7,141,500	2,441,500	2,441,500	756,341	45,000
SUBTOTAL	29,430,000	28,578,000	0	28,578,000	15,406,750	15,406,750	1,862,416	149,393
Phase 2 Projects								
GP 7515A Glen Park	1,253,000	1,253,000	(4)	1,253,000	1,253,000	1,253,000	37,815	0
IN 7517A Ingleside	2,600,000	2,618,000	(4)	2,618,000	2,618,000	2,618,000	36,833	0
NI 7520A Norwood	2,600,000	2,618,000	(4)	2,618,000	2,618,000	2,618,000	55,485	971
NS 7520A North Beach	3,287,000	3,287,000	(4)	3,287,000	3,287,000	3,287,000	16,118	0
NI 7521A Norwood	1,610,000	1,610,000	(4)	1,610,000	1,610,000	1,610,000	16,118	0
NP 7528A Niles/Petal	4,110,000	3,934,500	(4)	3,934,500	3,934,500	3,934,500	18,104	0
SUBTOTAL	17,460,000	15,098,000	0	15,098,000	5,798,375	5,798,375	160,671	971
Phase 3 Projects								
BV 7529A Bayview	3,629,000	3,629,000	(4)	3,629,000	0	0	18,689	0
EV 7530A Europa Valley	4,380,000	4,380,000	(4)	4,380,000	0	0	10,632	0
NI 7531A Norwood	3,950,000	3,950,000	(4)	3,950,000	0	0	16,603	0
WA 7532A Western Addition	3,430,000	3,258,500	(4)	3,258,500	350,000	350,000	24,702	1,798
SUBTOTAL	15,390,000	14,620,500	0	14,620,500	350,000	350,000	72,225	1,799
Phase 4 Projects								
AZ 7533A Azusa	4,740,000	4,503,000	(4)	4,503,000	0	0	434,723	331,732
GS 7533A Golden Gate Valley	5,340,000	5,340,000	(4)	5,340,000	0	0	1,013,822	1,013,822
GS 7435A Golden Gate Valley	5,340,000	5,073,000	(4)	5,073,000	50,000	50,000	690,152	40,317
PT 7536A Portero	4,230,000	4,018,500	(4)	4,018,500	0	0	235,281	0
SUBTOTAL	19,660,000	18,677,000	0	18,677,000	50,000	50,000	684,450	372,049
Phase 5 Projects								
RE 7538A Redwood	4,200,000	3,990,000	(4)	3,990,000	0	0	383,400	35,385
RK 7538A Rockwood	1,310,000	1,244,500	(4)	1,244,500	0	0	35,385	23,479
PD 7539A Piedmont	1,530,000	1,453,500	(4)	1,453,500	353,400	353,400	35,385	23,479
SUBTOTAL	7,040,000	6,698,000	0	6,698,000	353,400	353,400	72,225	1,799
Program-Wide Services & Costs								
W 7500A Working Capital	800,000	800,000	(4)	800,000	600,000	600,000	434,723	331,732
CS 7500A Construction Costs	750,000	750,000	(4)	750,000	562,500	562,500	102,331	4,161
PM 7509A Program Management	3,600,000	3,600,000	(4)	3,600,000	1,013,822	1,013,822	690,152	40,317
AR 7502A Real Estate Dept	170,000	235,281	(4)	235,281	235,281	235,281	0	0
AR 7503A Art Enrichment Program	0	302,000	(4)	302,000	302,000	302,000	68,450	0
RE 7504A Recreation & Library Reserve	4,350,000	4,350,000	(4)	4,350,000	300,000	300,000	140,011	140,011
FC 7505A Facility Construction Costs	1,500,000	1,500,000	(4)	1,500,000	300,000	300,000	0	0
FC 7506A Facility Construction Costs	1,500,000	1,500,000	(4)	1,500,000	338,622	338,622	290,051	0
SUBTOTAL	27,805,000	24,243,219	0	24,243,219	3,352,225	3,352,225	1,960,999	516,221
TOTAL	133,265,000	134,265,000	0	134,265,000	43,655,000	43,655,000	12,947,804	728,856

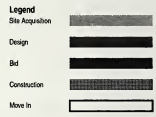
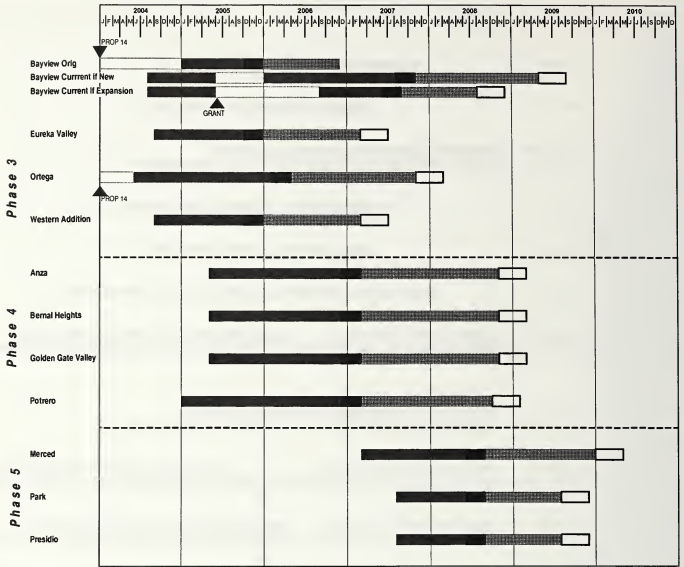
(1) not used
(2) not used
(3) Private Safety Program funds remaining for Branch Libraries
(4) Private donations from Friends & Foundation, includes Friends and Foundation fundraising expenses.
Prop. 14 applications may be submitted for these projects

Branch Library Program Summary Schedules

Monthly Bond Program Manager's Report



Branch Library Program Summary Schedules Monthly Bond Program Manager's Report



Wall of Library Heroes **An Invitation for Public Comment**

The San Francisco Public Library Commission is developing a series of plaques in the Larkin Street entrance of the New Main Library to commemorate the history of the institution and recognize the many individuals and organizations that have shaped it since 1877.

The project is in two sections. The first, *Keepers of the Dream*, is a philosophical statement about the role of the public library in San Francisco and mentions a few of the heroes who stepped forward from the community to champion its cause. This plaque has already been approved by the Library Commission after public review and is installed at the Larkin Street entrance. It is the first plaque in a series.

The second section is the *Wall of Library Heroes* and gives a more detailed look at SFPL history year by year. The focus is on institutional milestones, individual community leaders and the stories of what they did. While a few staff members are mentioned, the emphasis is on people from the community, unpaid volunteers who stepped forward to lead. We recognize that staff is critical to the function of any organization and there have been many heroes. There are existing programs to honor their work and other programs may be developed in the future.

The historical emphasis, as suggested in *Keepers of the Dream*, is activity since the mid-1900s. It is this section that is now open for public comment. It is expected that this section will cover six plaques, each three feet by three feet square. Our hope is that future generations will continue to tell the story of the Library on these walls, adding additional plaques to inform and inspire. All information will also be available via the Library web site. In this document we include both *Keepers of the Dream* and the *Wall of Library Heroes* so you can see them in context.

The history section is based heavily on the 1995 book *A Free Library in this City* by Peter Booth Wiley. Additional material was provided by various organizations and individuals involved with the Library system.

We understand that history is complicated to tell, change is difficult and everyone has strong opinions, particularly in this city. We have tried to give some context and have included criticism as well as praise. We also see this as a wall of *heroes* so the emphasis is on good works.

We are asking if we have missed any important stories, individuals or milestones or if we have made any mistakes in content, accuracy, spelling or other items.

Contact Library Commission Secretary Mike Housh, San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco CA 94102. You can also email mhoush@sfpl.org or bring suggestions to any of three Commission hearings scheduled on this issue.

(This page only— approved in April 2003 by the SFPL Commission after two public hearings)

Keepers of the Dream

Our free public library is a cultural institution unlike any other.

Inside is the history of the world, our greatest literature, ideas to strengthen our democracy, insights into science and business. It is a house of books and an electronic discovery center. You can travel to the stars or inside an atom, sail on a pirate ship or take any journey of the imagination. It is a magical place for children, a workroom for writers, a treasure chest for scholars. It is an educational and cultural resource. It reflects and respects our social diversity. It is a champion of intellectual freedom. It is this and more.

Yet the library is fragile, depending on elected officials who care, the good will of voters, the talent of its staff and citizens who understand its purpose and champion its cause.

The San Francisco Public Library struggled from the beginning, its history a mixture of inspired leadership and long periods of civic disinterest.

In the late 1950s, after years of decline, the San Francisco Public Library found its modern day angels. Imbued with civic spirit, a group of citizens demanded change. A great city, they argued, needed a great public library system. They dreamed big and worked tirelessly to create something tangible and important for future generations. Their struggle lasted 40 years. Charming or feisty, depending on the situation, often audacious, sometimes controversial, they made all the difference.

Many shared the dream and worked to achieve it. We honor them and thank the people of San Francisco for their faith and support. We also offer special recognition to three for extraordinary leadership, vision, and tenacity, inspiring others to join the cause. This trio led the effort through the decades, never losing hope, never accepting defeat, never forgetting the dream: Marjorie G. Stern, Mary Louise Stong, Margaret 'Mig' Mayer

This building is hereby dedicated to their civic spirit, their selfless leadership, their devotion to the ideals of a public library, and to the passion that made them keepers of the dream.

We are grateful.

Willie L. Brown, Jr., *Mayor*

SFPL Commission
Charles A. Higuera, *President*
Carol Steiman, *Vice President*
Helen Marte Bautista
Lonnie K. Chin

Steven A. Coulter
Fran A. Streets
Deborah Strobin
Commissioners

Susan Hildreth, *City Librarian*

April 4, 2003

Wall of Library Heroes

In creating this *Wall of Library Heroes*, the Library Commission seeks to capture many of the stories that shaped this cultural icon and the names of individuals who stepped forward offering leadership, perseverance and hope. We have selected items, big and small, positive and negative, which we believe reflect the dynamic, complex nature and history of the Library system and the city it serves.

Our focus is on unpaid citizen volunteers and champions. There have also been many heroes on staff and their fine work is honored in other programs. We recognize that telling history can be a perilous task. We acknowledge that not every detail or every individual who did important work is listed here. Future generations may inscribe on these walls other stories and the names of new heroes, *Keepers of the Dream*, who keep alive the promise of a “free public library in this city.”

History of the San Francisco Public Library

San Francisco was a literate place by boomtown standards. Although wild and often lawless following the discovery of gold in 1848, some observers said the City had more newspapers in more languages than London and more college graduates than any other city in the country. While some claimed the City put Gomorrah to shame, others pointed out that it had a large number of bookstores, attracted writers such as Ambrose Bierce, Mark Twain and Bret Harte and boasted major book publishers and collectors such as Hubert Howe Bancroft.

In 1852 you could visit several private libraries, including one in the What Cheer House, a temperance hotel. The Mercantile Association formed the city's first subscription library in 1853; dues were \$1 a month. Also in 1853 there are reports of a group of black merchants opening the Athenaeum Library Company. The Mechanics' Institute library opened in 1854 and still exists.

The late 1870s were troubled times for San Francisco. There was widespread unemployment, labor unrest, anti-Chinese agitation and resentment toward civic corruption and the wealthy, powerful men who dominated politics. Into this atmosphere the San Francisco Public Library was born.

1877

Residents of San Francisco hold a meeting at Dashaway Hall on Post Street to create a funding mechanism for a free public library. The project is initiated by cable car inventor Andrew Hallidie and State Senator George H. Rogers. Hallidie is a former President of the Mechanics' Institute and frustrated in his attempts to turn that library into a privately endowed public institution. He hopes a free public library can draw some restless young men from the bars and fleshpots of the city's more notorious neighborhoods. A resolution passed by the group states:

"Whereas, We, the citizens of San Francisco, here assembled, believe that the dissemination of education among people is the only safeguard to republican liberty and government, and believing the establishment of public libraries to be the best and cheapest means of educating the people, therefore; Resolved, That we do most heartily approve of the project about to be inaugurated for the establishment of a free library in this city and do pledge to the same our hearty and united support."

1878

Governor William Irwin signs into law the Rogers Act, allowing any city to levy a property tax to raise Library funds and create a *Board of Library Trustees* to oversee it. In order to keep the Library free from the general corruption of City politics, the Board of Trustees is self-perpetuating rather than being appointed by the mayor.

1879

The first City Librarian, Albert Hart, is hired.

The first Board of Trustees includes Andrew Hallidie and ten other mostly self-made men including a carpenter, a social activist, a couple of lawyers and six businessmen.

The Board of Supervisors votes to support the Library but fails to allocate sufficient funds. The Board also is unwilling to provide space in any publicly owned building.

On its own, the Library opens on gifts and credit, renting space in the theatre district on Bush Street. It is an immediate success with the public. Women have their own section.

1880

Librarian Hart resigns due to stress over the lack of funds. He is replaced by Charles Robinson who quits after seven months claiming that he is overworked.

Supervisors hold up allocation of funds in a struggle over patronage jobs. A judge orders the funds released.

The next City Librarian, Frederic Beecher Perkins, is a cousin of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Perkins provides Library pages with slippers so they will not make noise going up ladders to retrieve books. He also removes "dirty books" from the collection and warns "a library is not...a haunt for loafers and criminals."

The annual library budget is now \$48,000.

1885

Supervisors reduce Library revenues to \$18,000 a year, eliminating the book budget. Librarian Perkins declares that opponents are out to destroy the Library if they cannot control it.

1887

Perkins, tired of the budget fights, resigns amidst a public squabble over ejecting an unruly youth from the Library. Poet John Vance Cheney is named as his replacement. Cheney is working as a cashier in the Post Office when offered the job as Chief Librarian.

1888

The Main Library moves to the Larkin Street wing of the new City Hall, on a site later known as Marshall Square and the eventual site of the current new Main Library.

The Public Library opens its first three branches in the Mission, North Beach and Potrero districts.

1892

Richmond Branch opens near Golden Gate Park.

1893

The Main Library relocates within City Hall to the third floor of the McAllister Street wing.

1894

The Library annual report notes that the 38 employees of the Library make about \$48.95 per month, less than other city workers.

1895

Travel books and other literature are provided on special women's tables to help "take from them the desire for trashy literature."

George T. Clark is appointed City Librarian and begins expanding the collection. Circulation doubles in five years.

1896

James Duval Phelan, wealthy son of one of the original 49ers, is elected Mayor with a goal of reforming city politics and introducing European style urban planning. He supports construction of a separate Main Library, a goal of the Library Trustees. He will become a major supporter and patron of the Library.

To help protect the Library from patronage politics, examinations are required for Library jobs.

1898

A new City Charter increases the tax assessment for the Library Fund, setting a minimum appropriation of \$75,000. But it will take five years for the Library to actually receive that amount.

Presidio Branch opens on Fillmore Street.

Ten thousand books, about one tenth of the collection, are placed in open stacks.

1901

Mayor Phelan donates \$16,000 to build a branch South of Market. It includes a library for the blind. He also gives money for libraries in the city's almshouses and to two high schools.

Phelan announces plans to build a new Main Library and several new branches and convinces the Andrew Carnegie Foundation to pledge \$750,000.

The San Francisco Labor Council opposes the Carnegie donation arguing that the philanthropist was anti-labor and the offer was a "*presumptuous claim of a wealthy nonresident to dictate our municipal policy in the assumed name of philanthropy.*" Supervisors disagree and vote to accept the offer although it will take years until the City is ready to use it for a new Main Library.

1902

Businessman Andrew J. McCreery donates \$45,000 for a branch in Eureka Valley.

1903

Voters approve a bond issue for a new Main Library, but bond problems and a fight over location doom the effort. The Carnegie offer remains in limbo.

Chicago architect Daniel Burnham, leader of the City Beautiful movement, begins to design a master plan for San Francisco, including a Civic Center with a new library building.

1906

Burnham presents his final plan for the city's redesign.

A major earthquake destroys City Hall in seconds and a fire destroys the book collection at the Main Library. Said an eyewitness inspecting the damage: *"There was only a thin white ash where a hundred and sixty thousand books had been."* The Phelan (South of Market) and North Beach branches are destroyed, the McCreery (Eureka Valley) Branch is severely damaged and most Library employees are left homeless.

Fifteen thousand items are out on loan at the time; 1,500 eventually come back, the last, a group of periodicals from the 1850s, in 1996.

1907

A temporary Main Library is built at Hayes and Franklin streets.

George Clarke resigns as City Librarian and is replaced by William R. Watson, the first person trained as a professional librarian to head the system.

1909

A new Park Branch opens near the Panhandle.

The City begins to raise funds and consider plans for a new Civic Center.

1910

Supervisors put a charter amendment on the ballot to change the Library *Board of Trustees* from a self-perpetuating to an elected board. Voters turn it down. Angry, the Board of Supervisors cuts the Library budget.

1911

Music teacher Julius Rehn Weber arranges for the purchase of the 10,000-item music library from the Schirmer Music Library in Boston. Over the next decade he helps the Library develop the collection to become one of the best in the country.

1912

A ballot measure approves bond money for a new City Hall and Civic Center.

The Library asks the Carnegie Foundation to fulfill its 1901 funding pledge. Former Mayor and Library Trustee Edward Taylor opposes use of the Carnegie money and is backed by the Labor Council. Library Trustees and Supervisors vote overwhelmingly to accept the funds. Opponents put the question on the ballot but voters approve the Carnegie funds.

Robert Rea becomes City Librarian where he has worked since he was 13 years old.

1914

The temporary Main Library reaches capacity.

A contest is held for the design of the new Main Library. Architect George W. Kelham, who designed the Palace Hotel and is chief architect for the Panama-Pacific Exposition, is selected. It will be built in a formal Beaux Arts style.

Another architect who did not win the contest sues, charging that the design is similar to the design of the Detroit Public Library. But the case is dismissed. The *San Francisco Chronicle* laments, "There has been little new in architecture in the last hundred years—that is, monumental architecture."

Carnegie Foundation funds are earmarked for the construction of five permanent branch buildings.

The new Richmond Branch opens with funds from Carnegie.

1915

Ground is broken for the new Main Library. Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph and other officials take part in the ceremony.

1916

The cornerstone for the Main Library is laid, ten years after the devastating earthquake of 1906. A silver trowel commemorating the event goes into the San Francisco Library's history collection.

Noe Valley Branch opens through funds from the Carnegie Foundation.

1917

By horse and wagon, books are moved into the new Main Library.

The Main Library opens on February 15, 1917. Five hundred people take part in the ceremony. The building cost is \$1.153 million. Library Trustee and Board of Education President Joseph O'Connor refers to the building as "*this magnificent chaste temple of learning.*"

1918

Sunset and Golden Gate Valley branches open with funds from the Carnegie Foundation.

1920

At the instigation of Library Trustee William Young, the Main Library begins to acquire rare books. The Library also starts collecting works from San Francisco's fine printers and binders who are gaining international stature.

1921

Carnegie Foundation funds build two new buildings: North Beach Branch on Powell Street and Presidio Branch on Sacramento Street

A new Eureka Valley Branch opens, replacing the McCreery Branch that was damaged in the 1906 earthquake.

The Library budget is \$185,000 a year. Librarians are paid \$85 to \$95 a month, less than other City employees.

1925

Excelsior and Ingleside branches open.

1926

A report by the San Francisco Center indicates that Library children's services are under-funded and that the Library was *"the one large public library in the country which does not appreciate the value of assistants who are graduates of library schools."*

1927

Glen Park and Bayview branches open.

The Library names the rare book and fine printing collection as a memorial to Max J. Kuhl, a rare book collector and the attorney for the Panama-Pacific Exhibition of 1915. Several rare book enthusiasts help build the collection including Albert Bender who donates a Kelmscott Chaucer, a Dove's Press Bible and pages from the first and second folio Ashendene Spenser.

1928

Portola and Ocean View branches open.

Library Trustees President James Phelan commissions an outside study of the Library. The report states that the collection is excellent considering its near destruction in the 1906 earthquake and fire, but the Library is under-funded, and staff is largely untrained and seriously underpaid. Igniting a controversy, the study suggests replacing City Librarian Robert Rea with someone trained in library science. The League of Women Voters does its own survey and defends Rea. He retires in 1945.

1929

The Business Branch opens in the financial district.

With the Great Depression, Library funding declines but the number of people using the Library skyrockets.

1931

The Police Department is allowed to use the basement of the Main Library for target practice.

A new City Charter turns the Library Board of Trustees into a Commission appointed by the Mayor.

1932

Anza Branch opens.

1933

As poor economic times continue, Mayor Angelo Rossi appoints a Citizens Advisory Committee that recommends major cuts in the Library budget. The book budget is cut significantly.

1935

Visitation Valley Branch opens.

Mayor Rossi seeks federal help to build new branches on permanent city-owned sites. The City receives \$90,000.

1936

Parkside, West Portal and Bernal branches open, all in rental sites.

1939

West Portal Branch opens.

1940

Library staff, almost entirely women, campaigns successfully for civil service protection.

A new Bernal Branch opens in a city owned site.

Mayor Rossi and the Library Commission approve an ambitious plan to expand branches and establish a branch in every public school but it is never implemented.

Local businessman Alfred Furhman dies and bequeaths a portion of his estate to the Library for the purchase of books on economics and political subjects. The gift provides thousands of books and other materials through the present.

1943

The Main Library reaches capacity.

The City seeks federal Works Progress Administration funds to build an addition to the Main Library but is unsuccessful.

Library card holding and circulation began a slow decline that will continue for several years.

Mayor Roger Lapham seeks federal funds for construction of ten branches but is turned down.

1944

Mayor Lapham, before he appoints trial lawyer Nat Schmulowitz to the Library Commission, asks for his assessment on what to do with the Library. Schmulowitz gives a negative report borrowing metaphors from Jonathan Swift: there is a group on the Commission that treats books as sarcophagi for knowledge, the Library as a cemetery, the Librarian as the undertaker and the Commission and staff as honorary and active pallbearers.

After his appointment to the Commission, Schmulowitz is elected President. He recommends an outside study of the Library and community leaders suggest the Library improve and expand services.

1945

Robert Rea resigns as City Librarian after 56 years with the Library. Commission Secretary Laurence J. Clarke is appointed to succeed him, the second professional librarian to hold the post. He begins to make plans for a bond issue for an addition to the Main and hopes to expand other services.

1947

On April Fools Day, Schmulowitz donates his collection on *Wit and Humor* to the Library and gives an endowment. The collection eventually grows to become one of the largest of its kind in the world and is named in his honor.

The Library faces serious budget problems. The federal government threatens to stop providing government documents free of charge after it discovers the Library is not making them available to the public.

1948

A bond issue for 18 new branches and an addition to the Main Library, championed by City Librarian Clarke, fails by 12,000 votes. It will be 40 years before there is another vote.

The Library Commission writes to the Board of Supervisors, "*The history of the library clearly shows the lack of interest by the City Administration in the building up of library service.*" The report is ignored.

1949

Citizens concerned about the future of the Library meet to form the first, short-lived *Friends of the San Francisco Public Library*. Nat Schmulowitz presides; Dr. Charles Albert Schumate is elected President. Mary Louise Stong is one of the participants.

1951

The new Parkside and Potrero branches open replacing rented facilities.

1953

Voters turn down a limited bond issue to reorganize the Main Library and make it more efficient.

1954

Marina Branch opens.

1956

Ortega Branch opens.

1957

Anna Waden, a health department employee of modest means, leaves money in her will to construct a new branch in Bayview/Hunters Point.

The *Chronicle* runs a series of critical articles on the Library by reporter Hale Champion. One headline asks, "*Where are the books?*" while another article states "*Public Library a Disgrace to San Francisco.*"

Eureka Valley Branch is damaged in an earthquake.

1958

The Library Commission retains Emerson Greenaway, President of the American Library Association, to survey San Francisco's Library and make recommendations. His report urges additional city funding, improvements to the Main Library and the hiring of trained staff. Long term, he says, a new building is needed.

Merced Branch opens.

1959

Mayor George Christopher appoints a '*Committee of 50*' prominent citizens to examine the decline of the Library system, particularly the Main Library. Marjorie Stern is one of the members.

A grand jury report says the Main Library is gloomy, soiled and odoriferous, a kind of skid row hostel for the homeless, a building that is out of date. Only 1500 books were checked out in 1959 vs. 12,000 a year previously.

The new North Beach Branch opens. The old North Beach Branch, a Carnegie building on Powell Street, is renamed Chinatown Branch.

1960

San Franciscans for a Better Library, a citizens group, is formed.

William R. Holman, a librarian from San Antonio, is hired to head the San Francisco Library system. He says "*San Francisco is a bookish, unique city and it certainly does not deserve a third-rate library.*" He estimates that thousands of book catalog cards are missing and tens of thousands of books have yet to be cataloged.

1961

Prominent residents meet to form another Library support group, the *San Francisco Library League*.

The Committee of 50, San Franciscans for a Better Library and the *San Francisco Library League* join forces under a new name: *Friends of the San Francisco Public Library*.

(For leadership, see Box 1, *Friends of the San Francisco Public Library*).

City Librarian William Holman makes a master's degree in library science a requirement for new librarians.

1962

A new Eureka Valley Branch opens.

1963

Calligrapher Richard Harrison donates his collection to the Library.

1964

The *Friends* organization holds its first annual book sale of material donated to the Library. It is chaired by Hilde Kolb and raises \$4,000 to purchase rare materials for the Library. Over the years, this sale becomes the biggest in the western United States and raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Library. (For leadership, see Box 1, *Friends Book Sale*).

The Main Library establishes a collection of material on local history.

1965

The *Friends* lobby the City for more funds and the book budget gets a significant increase.

The Library receives the private collection of Robert Grabhorn on the *History of Printing and the Development of the Book*, half of it a gift from the *Friends*.

1966

Western Addition Branch opens.

Margaret 'Mig' Mayer becomes the first Executive Director of the Friends of the Library. She will work behind the scenes for twenty-five years supporting improved library services.

The State Librarian designates San Francisco Public Library as the hub of the Bay Area Reference Center (BARC), one of three regional reference groups.

1967

William R. Holman resigns as City Librarian saying he is proud of the Rare Books and Special Collections Department he helped create but tired of internal conflicts. The *Examiner* says he inherited "*one of the most infamous cultural fossils in the country*" and moved it in the direction of becoming a modern library.

1968

Tucson librarian John Anderson is hired to head the San Francisco system. Anderson describes the Main Library as "*the worst metropolitan library in the country.*"

Marjorie Stern is appointed to the Library Commission where she will serve until 1989.

A new Excelsior Branch is dedicated.

1969

San Francisco librarians organize a union, the *Librarians Guild*, which later becomes an affiliate of SEIU, Local 790. A separate existing organization, the *Staff Association*, continues through the early 1990s.

The new Anna E. Waden Branch opens in Bayview, named after its benefactor.

1970

Librarians join other city workers in a four-day strike protesting a proposal to restrict wage increases for city employees.

1971

The *Friends* donate the first bookmobile to serve older adults.

1972

Mayor Joseph Alioto faces a major budget deficit and announces closure of Ocean View, Portola and Golden Gate branches to save money. He later drops his plans.

Friends members form a new organization to lobby the state and city for more funding—*Keep Libraries Alive!* Leaders include Sally Brunn, Grace Macduff Parker, Billie Pearl-Schuler, Mary Louise Stong and Marjorie Stern.

1973

City Librarian Anderson resigns, saying he was given responsibility to run the institution but not the authority to appoint the personnel he needed to get the job done. Mayor Alioto names historian Kevin Starr the Acting City Librarian and will later make him permanent director.

1974

A major fight develops over a site Library supporters hoped to use for a new Main Library. Doubting that the Library can raise the needed private funds for a new Main, Mayor Alioto announces that he is backing Marshall Square as site of a new Symphony Hall. Library Commission President Ed Callanan urges that the Mayor find a different location. Library supporters campaign against the move. With the help of Supervisors Ron Pelosi and Bob Mendelsohn and assistance from attorney William Coblenz, a parking lot is released by the Board of Education for the Symphony Hall site and the Library gets Marshall Square.

The Library pioneers the establishment of services for the hearing and sight impaired using video and audiotapes. *A Library for the Blind and Print Handicapped* is eventually established at Presidio Branch.

1975

City Librarian Starr requests an increase in the budget and, in the Spirit of 1776, marches the document over to City Hall followed by a Fife and Drum Corps dressed as Minutemen. The Library gets a six percent increase.

1976

The Library's first automation system is installed.

The Library begins its Black Oral History Project.

"Meet Me At the San Francisco Public Library," a public relations campaign, encourages people to visit the Library and meet William Shakespeare, Mark Twain, the Cat in the Hat and others. It is developed by Friends board member John van der Zee.

Starr steps down as City Librarian. During the search for a new department head, three different interim directors are appointed, two for one month each and one, Edwin Castagna, for six months.

1977

John Frantz is named City Librarian. He once headed the Brooklyn Public Library and worked with the Iranian government to build a new national library.

1978

The Eureka Valley Branch is renamed as a memorial to slain Supervisor Harvey Milk, a long time Library supporter and member of the *Friends*.

Passage of *Proposition 13*, rolling back property taxes, seriously impacts the City's ability to fund the Library and other public agencies.

City Guides, offering free neighborhood history tours, is started by Judith Lynch in the Main Library's San Francisco History Room.

1979

San Francisco Public Library celebrates its 100th birthday with a giant cake and party in Civic Center Plaza. *Friends* President David Lelewer cuts the first piece with the silver plated trowel used in 1916 when the cornerstone of the old Library was put in place.

1980

City Librarian Frantz threatens closure of ten neighborhood branches and the business branch if a proposed 20 percent budget cut is enacted. The *Keep Libraries Alive!* group demonstrates at City Hall. The *Friends* pay the rent for the Business Branch.

The *Friends* assume responsibility for continuing the *City Guides* program.

1981

A budget compromise keeps all branches open.

The Library pioneers in the selection of children's books celebrating diverse cultures and devoid of social stereotypes. The collection is named the *Effie Lee Morris Historical and Research Collection of Children's Literature*, honoring the Library's first Coordinator of Children's Services.

1982

A report by Columbia University library expert Lowell Martin recommends consolidation of branches to save money and improve service quality. The report catalyzes the opposite effect, increasing public support for the branches.

The *Friends* open *Book Bay* at Fort Mason to sell donated books and materials. The money helps fund Library projects the City could otherwise not afford.

The *Friends* and City Arts & Lectures, led by Sydney Goldstein, launch a literary lecture series that proves popular with the reading public.

Mary Louise Stong is appointed to the Library Commission, where she will serve for the next six years.

1983

Project Read, a program teaching adults how to read, is launched by the *Friends*. Olive "Babs" Waugh is its first director. Later, the Library will take over operation of the program.

1985

Attorney James W. Haas, a member of the *Friends* board, convinces the group to support a masterplan for the entire Civic Center. He writes Mayor Feinstein suggesting a new Main Library on Marshall Square while moving a museum into the old Main building.

Mayor Feinstein meets with City Librarian Frantz and commissioners Callanan, Stern and Stong. The mayor is skeptical of the Library's ability to raise significant private funds needed for a new building but listens to their arguments.

Book Buddies, a program using volunteers to read and tell stories to ill children in hospitals, is initiated.

Mayor Feinstein asks for a ten percent budget cut from the Library and other agencies to address a budget shortfall.

1986

Mayor Feinstein asks Deputy City Mayor Peter Henschel to form a task force to develop a Civic Center masterplan.

A report by consultants Becker and Hayes/Omni-Group criticizes the Main and calls for building a new Library next door on Marshall Square.

Hundreds of Library supporters meet at the Main Library and hear New York City Librarian Vartan Gregorian speak eloquently about the need for a new Main Library. It is the 25th anniversary of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

1987

The Fire Marshal closes the stacks of the Main Library until 100,000 books are removed, calling it a fire hazard.

City Librarian John Frantz resigns, in part because he opposes building a new Main Library, believing that technology will reduce the need for physical storage space.

The *Friends* start organizing a political campaign, anticipating a bond issue for the new Main Library. (For leadership, see Box 1, *1988 Main Bond Campaign*).

A second study by Becker and Hayes/Omni-Group underscores the viability of Marshall Square for a new Library. Another study by consultant Skidmore Owings & Merrill recommends that the current Main Library be used as a museum.

Mayoral candidate Art Agnos advocates construction of a new Main Library, saying, "*We've had enough studies and task forces. Let's act.*" He is elected in December.

Deputy Mayor Henschel asks Asian Art Museum chair Judy Wilbur if the museum would be interested in leaving Golden Gate Park and taking over the old Main Library building. The idea is controversial. Her board expresses interest but no commitment is made.

Ken Dowlin, one of the nation's leading advocates for the high tech library of the future, is hired as the new City Librarian. *San Francisco Examiner* columnist Bill Mandel suggests it will take "*the Clint Eastwood of librarians*" to succeed given all the politics and challenges.

In the final weeks of her term, Mayor Feinstein sends the Board of Supervisors a series of recommendations for Civic Center, including building a new Library on Marshall Square and turning the old Library into a museum. A construction cost estimate for the new Main Library is \$120 million, a record level for a city bond. Officials overseeing city bond issues fear it will never pass and reduce the proposed funding for the Main by \$15.5 million. They then add \$5 million back for branch remodeling, hoping it will increase political support for the bond.

Marjorie Stern begins discussions with various business and community leaders about forming a *Library Foundation* to raise needed money for the new Main. She anticipates bond approval and knows that the bond will not cover fixtures, furniture and other upgrades. Many are skeptical about the Library's ability to raise money.
(For leadership, see Box 5, *Library Foundation & Main Campaign*).

1988

Mayor Agnos and the Board of Supervisors approve Proposition A for the November ballot, authorizing funds to build the new Main Library and to start branch renovations. They also approve Proposition N allowing the Asian Art Museum to take control of the old Main Library. Opponents of the Library bond say it is too expensive and it would be better to remodel the old Main.

Seventy-six percent of voters approve the bond for a new Main Library.
(For leadership, see Box 1, *1988 Main Bond Campaign*).

The Asian Art Museum agrees to make the old Main Library its new home. The Museum and the new Main Library share a champion. In the late 1950s, Marjorie

Stern and a small group of Asian art enthusiasts convinced Chicago millionaire Avery Brundage to contribute his massive Asian art collection to San Francisco.

Marjorie Stern leaves the Library Commission and is named *Honorary Commissioner for Life* by Mayor Agnos.

A referendum allows collective bargaining for public employees. The Librarians Guild begins negotiating its first contract with the Library.

Budget problems force Mayor Agnos to propose cuts for various departments including the Library. A suggestion to temporarily close several branches meets strong community opposition. Eventually the Business Branch is closed but other branches are spared.

Mel and Charlotte Swig, major civic and philanthropic leaders, are approached about chairing the fundraising campaign for the new Main Library. They agree if an experienced foundation executive such as Martin Paley takes the Executive Director role. Paley agrees.

Philanthropist Ann G. Getty and Stanford Professor Emeritus John W. Gardner agree to be honorary co-chairs. Gardner, founder of Common Cause and HEW Secretary under President Lyndon Johnson, was a key architect of the Great Society.

1989

A committee of 25 community leaders, including Marjorie Stern, Mary Louise Stong and Mig Mayer, interview various architects for the new Main and recommend two firms working in association. The City approves the recommendation and hires Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein Moris of San Francisco, and Pei Cobb Freed & Partners of New York City. (For leadership, see Box 1, *Designing & Building the New Main*).

The challenge is designing a major new Library for the 21st Century replacing in essence a 19th Century building with outdated technology. At the same time, California's economy is in recession, the City budget is in the red and few believe the Library can raise millions of dollars in private funds.

Mig Mayer retires as Executive Director of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. Jane Winslow is selected to replace her.

The Loma Prieta earthquake damages the old Main. The seven level book stacks with glass floors twist as the earth moves shearing some glass into long thick shards and dumping hundreds of thousands of books on the floor. The Library is closed. City building officials say staff cannot be ordered into such an unsafe space. Ignoring the danger, staff members volunteer to retrieve the books. The staff and 300 community volunteers then move the books to

temporary storage space in an empty building in the Presidio. Repairs take several months.

When the Main re-opens, hundreds of people gather for a celebration, including a troupe of accordion players campaigning to make the accordion the official musical instrument of San Francisco. They succeed.

In support of freedom of speech, the Library hosts "*I am Salman Rushdie*" Day at the Main Library. Bay Area writers read excerpts from Rushdie's 1989 book *Satanic Verses*. Rushdie, Indian-born and a British citizen, has gone into hiding after the religious leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini, declared the book blasphemous and called for his assassination.

Another difficult budget year forces the Library to cut services. As part of the reductions, the Library officially stops updating the out-of-date and labor-intensive card catalog, anticipating a state-of-the-art computer system in a few years.

Box 1 *(Special Sidebar/Boxed area)*

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 1961-62

Founding members of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library include:

President: Alan K. Browne

Vice Presidents: General Edwin L. Johnson, David Magee, Jack Pollatsek and Marjorie Stern

Treasurer: William Mackey

Secretary: Mary Louise Stong

Board Members: John Bransten, Mortimer and Janet Fleishhacker, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. R. Gwin Follis, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Gerbode, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Haas, Lucille Mohr, Judith Pollatsek, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schwabacher Jr., Mrs. Nion Tucker, George and Sally Williams, Mrs. Dean Witter, and Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Zellerbach.

Over the next year, the *Friends* board membership grows to include: Mildred Bell, Mrs. Donald Biggs, William Brinton, Mrs. Francis Carroll, William Coblentz, Hunt Conrad, Mrs. Richard Dakin, Mrs. Ralph Doscher, Robert Drewes, Dr. Frank Fenton, E.H. Gauer, Carlton B. Goodlett, M.D., George Johns, Gustav Knecht, Jr., Lewis Lengfield, Mrs. Robert MacDuff, Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin, Robert Marcus, William Monihan, Eugene M. Price, Alvin Rockwell and Nat Schmulowitz.

Friends Book Sale, 1964

Leadership for the first book sale include Hugh Cook, Ann Grace, Hilde Kolb, Erma Kuta, Joan Leaf, Elaine Mundy, Richard Reinhardt, Ken Train and Helen Louise Weinstein.

Main Bond Campaign, 1988

The *Friends* start organizing for the anticipated Library bond in 1987. Marilyn Smulyan is hired to build grassroots support. Sally Brunn of Keep Libraries Alive! lobbies the Legislature for a state library bond measure and finds Senator Milton Marks and others supportive. Volunteers are recruited to build public support, including community leaders Aileen Hernandez and Joanne Foo, attorney Fred Rodriguez and labor leader Steve Neuberger of SEIU Local 790.

Once approved for the ballot, a formal bond campaign is formed. Sherry Agnos, wife of the new Mayor, and School Superintendent Ramon Cortines are honorary co-chairs. Dick Pabich runs the campaign with leadership from consultants Marilyn Smulyan and Robert Barnes and help from a Franciscan brother and Tenderloin neighborhood activist, Kelly Cullen. Hundreds of others assist the campaign effort.

Designing & Building the New Main

James Ingo Freed and Cathy Simon lead the design team with Project Manager Anthony Bernheim. Other members in leadership roles include City Librarian Ken Dowlin, Library Project Director Kathy Page and Library Commission President Steve Coulter.

San Francisco's Chief Administrative Officer Rudy Nothenberg leads the building efforts for the City with the help of project managers Russ Abel and later Jim Cheng. The General Contractor is Huber Hunt Nichols. Because the Library will be on the Civic Center Plaza, the Arts Commission oversees important design elements including the exterior of the building and its public art.

Prop E Campaign for Library Funding, 1994

The Friends of the Library launch a successful initiative to help stabilize Library funding and face significant opposition in their campaign. Leadership members include Friends President Diane Filippi, Mary Louise Stong, Carol Steiman, Dale Carlson, City Librarian Ken Dowlin, campaign managers John Whitehurst and Robert Barnes, pollster David Binder, David Spero and others. Steiman will later become a Library Commissioner.

(End special sidebar/boxed area)

1990

Sheet music collector Dorothy Starr dies, leaving a vast collection of 500,000 pieces of published music. The *Friends* purchase the collection from her estate for the Art & Music Department of the Library.

Design work for the new Main Library is underway. Because the Board of Supervisors had earlier reduced the bond size \$15.5 million, the architects and City officials eliminate one entire floor from the plan to stay within budget.

A public meeting is held at the Library for the Blind at the Presidio Branch to decide whether to relocate to the new Main Library. After vigorous debate, community leader Rose Resnick makes an impassioned speech to move to Civic Center. The group votes overwhelmingly to move.

Library Commissioner Ed Callanan, first appointed by Mayor Jack Shelley in 1964, steps down after 26 years of service.

1991

The Library Foundation begins public efforts to raise money for the new Main Library and the Chinatown Branch expansion.

A fundraising study by Charlie Howland suggests the Foundation will be unable to raise even \$20 million because California is in a recession and the Library has no existing donor base. Nevertheless, Mel Swig feels the Library needs more and increases the goal to \$25 million, with an additional \$5 million to start an endowment.

Over the next three years, the *Main Campaign*, as it will be called, raises \$36 million under the leadership of the Swigs and others.
(For leadership, see Box 5, *Library Foundation & Main Campaign*).

Chronicle Columnist Herb Caen proclaims that the new Library will henceforth be known as the *New Main*. Eventually the *New Main* periodical reading room will be named in his honor. One of his typewriters will be included in the collection.

The Library Commission adopts a *Five Year Strategic Plan* outlining new services for traditionally underserved communities, organizing around collections where there is broad public interest and developing more dependable sources of revenue.

Commission President Steve Coulter advocates creating a gay and lesbian historical archive, the first in a public library in the U.S. Leaders in the gay and lesbian community express strong support and help shape it. At a press conference, Mayor Agnos, Coulter and others announce its creation. Author Randy Shilts says, "*We're losing far too many people to the AIDS epidemic—it's essential we not lose our history, too.*"
(For leadership, see Box 5, *Gay & Lesbian Group*).

The Foundation supports the gay and lesbian archive but is concerned about raising money for one group when funds are needed for the entire building. The gay and lesbian organizing committee agrees to raise money for the Library

as a whole as well as the archive, setting the tone for other campaigns.

Library Foundation Executive Director Martin Paley, facing a skeptical donor community, believes the Library is the most democratic of public institutions. He makes that principal the heart of the campaign. "*Many of the City's diverse communities have both the interest and capacity to participate in private giving for the public good,*" says Paley, "*but generally are not asked to do so.*" Paley asks them and the communities respond with enthusiasm. Many are involved in a great civic campaign for the first time.

This effort to recruit all segments of the community in the fundraising and organizing around collections and services becomes known as the "*Affinity Group*" campaign. The initiative is extraordinarily successful and creates an emotional depth to the campaign as different communities share their dreams, new collections and services develop with staff help, and a new sense of philanthropy blossoms in the community. As the campaign approaches the \$30 million mark, over 18,000 individuals and organizations have contributed. Around the country, other libraries and civic efforts adopt a similar model. (For leadership, see Box 5, *Affinity Group Campaign*).

The City's busiest branch, Chinatown, is scheduled to be upgraded and doubled in size. A fundraising campaign, linked to the Chinese American Center in the Main Campaign, is organized. Community leader Rosalyn Koo plays a key role in the fundraising for both and in helping the Library manage problems in the City's handling of construction and design issues relating to the branch. (For leadership, see Box 5, *Friends of the Chinatown Branch*).

The Main Library opens the "*Prides & Joys*" exhibit of rare books and fine print volumes in the collection. It is organized by printer Andrew Hoyem, Marjorie Stern and other book collectors and rare book enthusiasts.

Library activist Sally Brunn dies and the Library Commission re-names the Noe Valley branch in her honor in 1992. Shortly before her death, friends and officials hold an event to thank her for her years of service. She requests that it be a Library fund-raiser. Over \$15,000 is raised to buy more books on political activism, according to her wish.

Labor unions help the Main building effort. The Building and Construction Trades Council led by Stan Smith agrees to tear down the old USO building on Marshall Square as a gift to the Library. During World War II, the same union built the USO as a gift to American soldiers.

The Library acquires the 10,000-volume gay and lesbian pulp fiction collection of book collectors Barbara Grier and Donna McBride of Florida. Other historic materials are donated or loaned to the Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center over the next few years, including the Harvey Milk/Scott Smith Collection, archives from

the *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society of Northern California*, materials from Mattachine Society founder Harry Hay, author Randy Shiels and filmmakers Peter Adair and Rob Epstein.

1992

Ground is broken for the New Main Library on Marshall Square. Mayor Frank Jordan uses the same silver shovel used by Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph to break ground for City Hall. Hundreds attend the ceremony.

The Library excavation uncovers part of the old jail and other rubble from City Hall when it collapsed in the 1906 earthquake. Also found are some hand bones and a wedding band, perhaps the last remains of the Yerba Buena Cemetery that once held more than 5,000 bodies and was removed in 1870.

The Library is again facing budget cuts and the economy is in a recession. With the cry of "*Find the Funds*," the *Keep Libraries Alive!* committee campaigns for more Library funding.

The *Friends* give the Library a new bookmobile to serve shut-ins and the elderly.

1993

Civic leader, philanthropist and co-chair of the Main Campaign, Mel Swig dies after a long illness. A few months earlier, Swig attends what will be his last Main Campaign rally. It is the emotional high point of the campaign. He listens as members of the *Affinity Groups* talk about what the campaign means to them and their communities, moving beyond symbolism to full participation in a great civic venture. An endowment is created in his name.

Another difficult budget year forces the Library to trim its book budget and hours.

A major political fight erupts when the Library proposes moving the Victorian era *Pioneer Monument* that sits at Hyde and Grove streets. It originally stood before the old City Hall that was demolished by the 1906 earthquake. Some historic preservationists fight the move, citing the statue's beauty and the historical relevance of the site; Native Americans call the statue racist. The Library Foundation pays to move the 800-ton monument to a site between the old Library and the new Main.

An anonymous group of donors offers to fund a program of the Library's choice. The Library accepts the offer and dramatically expands its telephone reference service.

1994

More proposed budget cuts mean dramatically reducing hours at some branches, further reductions in the book budget and staff reductions.

Mayor Jordan fires six of seven Library Commissioners in a budget dispute.

The Friends of the Library under the leadership of President Diane Filippi launch a ballot initiative for the Library to receive a minimal level of funding for books, materials and service hours to stop the boom and bust cycle of Library funding. When funds for the campaign run low, Mary Louise Stong loans the campaign money to continue the fight. Proposition E passes with over 70% of the vote. (For leadership, see Box 1, *Prop E Campaign*).

Friends for Life, a library volunteer program to bring books to those with HIV and AIDS who are housebound, is started.

The Library establishes Internet access and its initial Web site. It includes an online Community Services Directory of all San Francisco government agencies, community, neighborhood, health, human service and business groups.

Lessons learned from the Northridge earthquake in Southern California lead to re-welding critical joints in the New Main, which is still under construction. Sitting on rubber isolators that act as shock absorbers, the new building is designed to withstand an 8.3 earthquake.

The Library establishes a new program for people with dyslexia and other learning differences sponsored by the Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation and the Roberts Foundation.

Box 2

(Special Sidebar/boxed area)

Art in the New Main

The New Main Library contains a variety of major art pieces, some obtained through the City program for new buildings and others donated by individuals.

Three major pieces are incorporated into the building as part of a city program for art in new buildings.

Artists Ann Hamilton and Ann Chamberlain take cards from a duplicate staff card catalogue, invite patrons to write their observations or favorite quotes on the cards, and then embed them on three walls in the building.

Artist Nayland Blake creates a 21st Century high tech list of California authors on a five-story wall behind the grand staircase. Called *Constellation*, it has the names etched in mirror and then reflected by a fiber optic light cable.

Between the fifth and sixth floors of the suspended glass reading room that juts into the Main atrium is a conical and surreal spiral staircase created by sculptor Alice Aycock. Hanging in a great open space nearby is *Cyclone Fragment*, a ghost projection of the spiral stairs.

Other major pieces:

As a donation for the opening of the New Main, muralists Charlie Brown and Mark Evans painted the domed ceiling of the James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center. The mural is entitled *"Into the Light,"* featuring prominent gays and lesbians through history.

Guatemalan artist Emanuel Paniagua created a freestanding mural entitled *"Perhaps Better Voices (Talvez Mejores Voces.)."* It is commissioned by School Board member Carlota del Portillo and donated to the Library for the Latino/Hispanic Room in 1997. It is a visual representation of the history of Latin American writers including characters from the literature of the pre-Hispanic Maya, the poetry of a 17th Century Mexican nun, and the epic verse of Argentina's free-wheeling gauchos.

The *"Double L Excentric Gyrotory"* mobile sculpture by artist George Rickey is installed outside the New Main in 1997. Two 18-foot steel arms shaped like Ls pivot, independent of each other, in response to air currents. It is a gift to the city from art patron Carl Djerassi.

(End of boxed sidebar)

1995

Because of Prop E funds, the book and materials budget triples in size and system open hours increase 46%. The Main Library begins its first serious inventory in decades. Branch libraries receive thousands of new books and staff begins weeding collections to make room for new materials.

At the end of the year, the old Main Library closes to the public. For the sixth time in its history, staff prepares to move the enormous Main collection, sorting through nearly a century's worth of accumulated materials. By hand and truck the collection is moved, this time just across the street. Tens of thousands of new books are purchased for the grand opening and tens of thousands more are donated by affinity groups and other organizations.

As librarians pull damaged, outdated or duplicate materials from the Main collection, a controversy erupts, foreshadowing rough times ahead. Critics allege that the Library is disposing of large numbers of books rather than move them to the new building. The Library administration defends the professional standards and judgment of staff. The argument escalates into a shrill debate on books and technology, tradition and change.

1996

Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. appoints a new Library Commission, replacing six of seven members. Sherry Agnos, honorary co-chair of the 1988 bond issue for the

New Main, is appointed. Fran Streets, a retired banker and prominent civic leader, is retained.

Weldon Owen publishes *A Free Library in this City*, a history of the San Francisco Public Library by Peter Booth Wiley. The publisher donates the book as a gift to the Library commemorating the years of struggle to build the New Main.

In tents outside the New Main a special Family Day event draws 12,000 parents and children. Local celebrities, including actor Robin Williams, read their favorite children's stories.

Construction of the New Main is complete. It is one of the first major public buildings in the U.S. to incorporate many *green building* features. Special attention goes to indoor air quality and even the carpets use special adhesive materials to minimize indoor pollutants. It is the first building in San Francisco to have talking signs to assist sight-impaired patrons.

April 18, 1996. The new Main Library is ready to open. It is ninety years to the day since the great earthquake destroyed the old City Hall and the Main Library inside.

Thousands crowd Fulton Street between the old Main and the new, wrapping around the Pioneer Monument, and take part in the opening ceremonies. (For details, see Box 3, *New Main Opens*).

Box 3

(Special Sidebar/boxed area)

New Main Opens, April 18, 1996

□ In a clear and soaring voice, Sara Von Davenport, a 14-year-old from Hunters Point, sings a cappella "America the Beautiful." □ An honor guard of construction workers who built the Library march on stage in hard hats and receive an ovation. □ Politicians, corporate executives, philanthropists, librarians and Keepers of the Dream speak to the crowd about the struggle to create the New Main. □ Surrounded by children from the Tenderloin, a storyteller, J. Peter Callendar, dramatically recounts the history of the Library. □ The children sing "Happy Birthday" on the first day of public life for the New Main. □ Beach Blanket Babylon's Val Diamond, wearing a giant hat with the New Main on top, sings "San Francisco." □ The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, conducted by Alasdair Neale, plays Aaron Copeland's "Fanfare for the Common Man." □ A plane circles high overhead and a man jumps out, parasailing onto Civic Center. He rushes to Mayor Brown, Charlotte Swig and others, and hands them a symbolic key. □ Two guards in Beefeater uniforms open the doors of the New Main. □ From inside the Library emerges a procession of characters from the book collections—the Three

Musketeers, Sir Francis Drake, Mark Twain, Cinderella, Snow White, Marie Antoinette, Abraham Lincoln and a hundred others. □ The crowd rushes inside. □ Children hurry up and down stairs, checking out the bridges, books and the Children's Electronic Discovery Center. □ The Affinity Centers are crowded. □ Every computer is in use. Every chair is filled. □ People browse the book stacks and examine the public art. □ Crowds gather in the atrium. Many people are hugging with tears in their eyes. □ With Mig Mayer nearby, Marjorie Stern and Mary Louise Stong approach the counter to check out the first books. But Mrs. Stern has forgotten her Library card. Staff looks up her card number. A dream is realized. □

(End Special Sidebar/boxed area)

The first book checked out? Peter Wiley's "A Free Library in this City."

Fourteen thousand people come through the building on its first day, and the next, and the next. A million visit the building in just over three months. On weekends the doors have to be closed periodically and people asked to wait because the crowds are too large. Staff is overwhelmed but works hard to meet the demand.

The opening is not without problems. The complex seven level building opens with makeshift signs because the sign maker declares bankruptcy just before the opening and never delivers the signage. The book conveyor system that delivers materials to the sorting room can't handle the volume and breaks down.

For an institution long starved for funding and civic attention, there is suddenly abundance on several levels: more public and private money; dramatic increases in new materials, collections and archives; a new online computer system to replace the old card catalog; heavy media attention; and massive crowds. San Franciscans are passionate about their Library, tradition and change and a lively debate rages for months. (For details, see Box 4, *Debate on the New Main*).

Box 4

(Special Sidebar/boxed area)

Debate on the New Main

The dramatic differences between the old and New Main libraries thrill many but startle others. San Francisco becomes the focus of a national debate on books, technology and the role of libraries in the 21st Century.

Supporters of the New Main say the building is inspiring, a great civic presence that completes the 1917 Civic Center master plan, succeeded against the odds and is now more diverse in its collections and services, better reflecting the populations it serves. Critics of the building say it is too modern, has too

many computers, is too open and does not have enough space for books. A novelist announces that he has come to save the card catalog, claims the weeding of books was "a hate crime against the past" and leads what will become a high profile national crusade. Some demand that librarians never remove anything from the collections. Others argue that collections need to be managed to keep them relevant. The success of the private fundraising, seen as astonishing by many who believed it could never be achieved, is viewed by others as a kind of private takeover of a public service. Supporters say private donors bring opportunities for even greater public service as well as practical necessities such as chairs and tables. Meanwhile, libraries around the country seek to emulate the San Francisco fundraising model.

The New Main Becomes a Major Media Story

□ *"It will grow on us,"* writes the U.S. Poet Laureate about the outside of the building, adding that *"inside...is a marvel, so deeply delicious you forget your previous ideas of what a library is."* *"An ugly modern shopping mall"* fumes a critic of the building in a newspaper article. A *"Mall for the Mind"* writes *Newsweek*. *"A Wonderment to Discover"* for people with disabilities writes the *World Institute on Disabilities*. □ *"The curves and twists of stairs around the rotunda are enough to make a person dizzy,"* rages one letter in the *Examiner*. *"A dynamic, light-filled space as inviting as it is joyous"* writes *Art in America*. . □ *"A Trojan horse concealing an invasion force of private interests,"* writes a critic. □ *"Room for Imagination in a Temple of Reason"* headlines the *New York Times* architectural review.

The Mayor calls for a neutral third party audit to study some of the issues and cool tempers. An *Examiner* editorial gives this advice to all sides in this sometime shrill debate: *"Shush!"*

(End Special Sidebar/Boxed area)

Crowds set new service records. For the first year, Main circulation is up 71%, adult programming increases 705% and children's programming increases 224%. By the end of 1996, attendance levels out at 5,500 a day, seven days a week. Tens of thousands more visit the online web site, use Library databases or attend Library-sponsored functions.

Outside of the spotlight, the public expresses itself in different ways. One woman writes in the guest book of the Homel Center:

"When I... looked at the ceiling mural entitled 'Into the Light,' I started to cry. A city institution actually making a statement that I am important, reaching out to me, saying that my history matters. It is so beautiful and so important."

The New Main holds its first three exhibitions. *Building the Library. San Francisco: The Dimensions of Diversity. San Francisco: The Politics of Inclusion.* All are funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Brooks Walker Patent & Trademark Center becomes one of five California sites designated as a federal patent depository library. It includes complete patents from 1790 to the present.

The Daniel E. Koshland San Francisco History Center contains more than 250,000 photographs dating from 1850. City records and photographs provide detail on thousands of homes and buildings.

A survey by the City Controller on what the public thinks of various government agencies lists the S.F. Public Library as the most respected institution and librarians as the most popular workers.

The Kresge Foundation International Center contains material in 40 languages with emphasis placed on materials in their original languages rather than translations. U.S. citizenship study guides are also available.

Chinatown Branch re-opens, twice as large as before. Lion dancers and hundreds of supporters attend the opening ceremony.

A new budget controversy develops. City Librarian Ken Dowlin, saying he is tired of the constant fighting and feeling that he has met many of his goals including building the New Main, resigns. Kathy Page, Chief of the Main, steps in as temporary City Librarian, the first woman to hold the position.

1997

The *Library Foundation* begins an annual *Library Laureates* dinner in the New Main, honoring leading authors from Northern California. Author Amy Tan and U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass are co-chairs of the inaugural event.

Mission Branch reopens after extensive remodeling.

The *Wallace Stegner Environmental Center* holds a series of public debates on environmental issues, underwritten by the Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund. Actor Robert Redford attends a press conference announcing the program.

Library computers prove so popular with the public that time limits are imposed at peak hours.

Regina Minudri, past President of the American Library Association, is named City Librarian, the first woman to hold the post on a permanent basis. This comes nearly four decades after she first worked at this Library as a page while going to library school.

Brave Little Girls exhibit opens, depicting young women heroines in children's literature. The exhibit will later receive the prestigious John Cotton Dana Award from the American Library Association.

The Library Commission authorizes a Post Occupancy Evaluation of the New Main to analyze ways to make the building more efficient.

The Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation merge into one organization, the *Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library*. Marjorie Stern, Deborah Doyle, Leslie Luttgens and others spend months working out details. The leaders of each organization, Margie O'Driscoll and Chuck Forester, are named co-Executive Directors.

The American Institute of Architects and the American Library Association present the New Main the *Award of Excellence for Library Architecture*.

1998

Mayor Brown proposes funding and building a new Ocean View Branch. The neighborhood strongly supports the project, providing ideas for services and helping raise funds for furniture and equipment.

Through My Father's Eyes: Pioneers of the San Francisco Filipino Community exhibit opens at the New Main. It eventually becomes part of a permanent Smithsonian Institute traveling exhibit.

"*City of Angels*," a movie about angels who live in libraries and look after people, films various sequences in the New Main. It stars Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan.

1999

Over 25,000 historical photographs from the Library collections are digitized and made accessible on the Library's website.

Email reference service begins.

A citywide survey shows 80% of San Franciscans believe that the Library system is clean, safe, has attractive buildings and a friendly and courteous staff.

Library records show 333 organizations and over 12,000 people use meeting rooms in the New Main this year.

2000

City Librarian Minudri steps down for health reasons and Deputy City Librarian Susan Hildreth becomes Acting Director. Hildreth will be named permanent City Librarian in 2001.

Proposition A, a \$106 million bond to build five new branches, upgrade 19 others for earthquake safety, electrical code upgrades, and access for people with disabilities is placed on the ballot after lobbying by the Friends & Foundation. However the amount approved by city officials is \$10 million less than what is estimated as necessary. The ballot measure passes with 74% of the vote.

The new Ocean View Branch opens, replacing a rented facility. It includes a computer-training center, a high priority for the neighborhood.

Friends & Foundation Board member Carlota del Portillo exhorts Library supporters to become "*Keepers of the Dream*" that brought the institution to where it is today, particularly the dreams and promises represented by the Affinity Group campaigns.

2001

New Main to New Millennium: Gifts and Acquisitions 1996-2001 exhibition features new archival and rare materials obtained by the Library since the New Main opened. It is one of ten exhibits at the Main this year.

Nearly five million people visit the San Francisco Public Library system in fiscal year 2000-01, checking out 6.3 million items. Millions more use library reference material or online services. Over 182,000 children attend special programs.

In four years the Library has four Chief Librarians, major increases in public usage, new systems for staff to learn, new ways to work, major controversies in the media and yet the system keeps going, a tribute to the skill and determination of staff.

Dale Carlson, a former Library Commissioner, steps down as President of the Friends and Foundation. He played a major role in numerous ballot measures, fundraising and policy debates. The California Library Association honors him for 13 years of leadership.

2002

Mary Louise Stong, a champion of public libraries for over a half-century, dies.

The Friends & Foundation, under new Executive Director Martin Gomez and Board Chair Deborah Doyle, begin work on \$16 million campaign to supplement the Prop A branch renovation bond because new furniture, fixtures and other needs are not covered by the bond.

The Library acquires a building on 9th Street to relocate the Technical Services Department that performs major book processing, repair and important back office functions now in the New Main.

The Library Commission approves a new branch in Mission Bay. When it opens it will bring to 27 the number of neighborhood branches.

The Main has ten new exhibits this year, drawing 70,000 visitors, including two on civil rights. *Speak Truth to Power* features portraits of people of all ethnicities and nationalities who have spoken up as human rights defenders. *Long Walk to Freedom* is a project of students at George Washington High School focusing on 12 civil rights activists of the 1960s.

One of the founders of the African American Center, Dr. Arthur H. Coleman, dies. A lawyer and Hunters Point physician for over 50 years, he was also a charter member of the Library Foundation. An endowment for the Center is created in his honor.

2003

The new Asian Art Museum opens in the old Main Library.

The Library purchases property for five new City-owned branch libraries, replacing rented facilities. Over the next decade, new branches will be constructed in Mission Bay, Glen Park, Visitacion Valley, Portola and Ingleside and 19 existing branches will be upgraded. Design work for an expanded Richmond Branch is approved.

The Library Commission approves creation of this *Wall of Library Heroes* to capture the history of this institution and honor the many leaders over more than a century who rose from the community and fought for the values of a great public library. Their stories are a legacy that will inspire others.

*We acknowledge Peter Booth Wiley and his book
A Free Library In This City as a key source of material
used in this history. We are grateful for his help.*

*This project was made possible by a grant from the
Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library, 2003*

Box 5 (Special Sidebar/Boxed area)

Library Foundation & the Main Campaign, 1987-96

The initial founding members of the Foundation include: Ben Dial, James Edgar (Board President), Leslie Luttgens, Michael Mellor, Caryl and Peter Mezey, Ellen Newman, Martin Paley, Marjorie Stern (Board Founding Chair), Olive Waugh and Ann Witter. As work begins, membership expands to include: Mayor Art Agnos,

Dale Carlson, Hector Chinchilla, Renee and Arthur Coleman, Steve Coulter, Carlota del Portillo, Ken Dowlin, Chuck Forester, Michael Garland, Ellen Huppert and Tatwina Lee.

Campaign co-chairs: Mel and Charlotte Swig
 Honorary co-chairs: Ann G. Getty and John W. Gardner
 Executive Director: Martin Paley

Affinity Group Campaign, 1991-94

Numerous community leaders stepped forward to take part and lead the effort to develop and help fund special collections of significant interest. Donor plaques are located inside the Library. Leadership of the Affinity Campaign includes:

African American Group

Co-chairs: Dr. Arthur Coleman and Renee Dorsey Coleman
Committee: Dr. Rena Merritt Bancroft, Jo-Ann Beverly, Barbra Boston, Kermit Boston, Geri Brown, Marguerite Browne, Diane M. Douchette, Frankie Gillette, Maxwell Gillette, Marion Greene, Barbara Heineback, Burl A. Toler, Doris M. Ward, Ph.D.

Children's Group

Honorary Co-Chairs: Doris Fisher and Charlotte Mailliard Swig
Kid's Day Co-Chairs: Becky Draper, Nancy Field, Katie Hall, Laura Kline, Kathy Nyrop, Millicent Powers and Wally Ward.
Committee: Linda Ach, Andi Arrick, Carla Baird, Ann Baldocchi, Diane Beaudet, Colurney Benoist, Bea Bowles, Nancy Dickson, Betsy Dixon, Mary Edwards, Therica Elliott, Lisa Feldman, Laura Fisher, Elizabeth "Randi" Fisher, Sako Fisher, Viviane Fort-Brescia, Sally Gerstein, Heather Gevertz, Katy Glass, Lisa Goldman, Maureen Halperin, John Handford, Roberta Holdlen, Leslie Hume, Colleen Kieselhorst, Kevin King, Marie Kirk, Sheila Larsen, Dawn Lehmann, Belinda Levensohn, Marilyn MacGregor, Jeannie Mitchell, Elaine Magnin, Lisa Moloney, Ira McEvoy, Betsy Nakamura, Carrie Ohly-Cusak, Caroline Orrick, Julie Parish, Paul Cince Pringle, Lisa Pritzker, Bill Rieser, Mary Ross, Jenny Schweich, Ellie Seddon, Maur Tavernetti, Kat Taylor, Sylvie Wada, Brenda Yee, Margaret Youngblood. Eventually the *Children's Center* will be named in honor of the Don and Doris Fisher family, leading philanthropists and civic leaders.

Chinese American Group

Honorary Co-Chairs: Virginia C. Gee and Tom Hsieh
Co-Chairs: Tatwina Chinn Lee and Rosalyn Koo
Committee: Joan Chin, Anthony Tse, Patricia Chang, Lonnie K. Chin, Vyolet Chu, JoAnn Foo, Yvonne Go, Monique Go, Theresa M. Lee, Dr. Rolland C. Lowe, George Ong, George E. Sycip, Dennis Wong and Robert B. Wong.

Friends of the Chinatown Branch

Co-Chairs: Thomas Ng and Reverend Harry Chuck

Vice Chairs: Helen Chin and Rosalyn Koo

Committee: Dr. Thomas H. Gee, JoAnne Low, Anni Chung, Dennis Wong, Gwendolyn Woo, Norman Yee, Stan Yee and Matilda Young.

Environmental Group

Co-Chairs: Larry Blake and Jerry Tone

Committee: Beth Barker, Arden Bucklin, Virginia Coe, Mike Garland, Chris Desser, Catherine Fox, Annette Gellert, Harold Gilliam, Dian Greueneich, Jennifer Hernandez, Mike Herz, Mary Wallace Houghteling, Lauren Klein, Claire Griffin Lyddon, Wende Williams Micco, Claire Nelson, Will Parish, Beth Skelton, Suzane Schutte, Mary Stegner, Marjorie Stern, Georgiana Stevens, Elissa Van Deursen, Kirby Walker and Susan Watkins. Eventually the *Center* will be named in honor of the late Wallace Stegner, a California author and Pulitzer Prize winner.

Filipino American Group

Chair: Tony Gualberto

Committee: Poly Arzaga, Cip Ayalin, Jun Caba, Billy Camota, Flor Camota, Virgie Gulaberto, Sharon Jones, Cris Kabasares, Ernie Llorente, Severo Lozano, Dennis Normandy, Sofia Prudenciado and Lou Raymundo.

Gay & Lesbian Group

Co-Chairs: Diane Benjamin and Chuck Forester

Committee: The initial organizing and planning committee includes women's publisher Sherry Thomas, civic leaders Alvin H. Baum, Jr., Steve Coulter, Chuck Forester, Gary Gielow, Marya Grams, James C. Hornel, Dorwin Buck Jones, and Robert W. Sass. It later expands to include: Diane Cane, Anne Casscells, Nancy Corporon, Mary Anne Courtney, Mario Diaz, Rosalinda del Moral, Leslie Ewing, Cynthia Gair, Nancy Gonchar, Dewey Green, Roma Guy, James W. Haas, Amma Hawks, Lance Henderson, Lauren Hewitt, Patricia Holt, Mark Leno, Penney Magrane, Robert Oakes, Robert Reinhard, Vince A. Sales, Joseph B. Schubert, Don Spradlin, John Vasconcellos, Steve Vezeris and Jan Zivic. Eventually the *Center* is named in honor of James C. Hornel, a leading philanthropist, civic leader and, a few years later, the first openly gay man in U.S. history to be appointed as a U.S. Ambassador. Thomas and Forester will later become Executive Directors of the Library Foundation.

Latino/Hispanic Group

Co-Chairs: Carlota del Portillo and Fred A. Rodriguez

Committee: Gladys Aquino, Elena Asturias, Honorable Carlos T. Bea, Isabel Campoy, Ricardo D. Carmona, Ray del Portillo, Jaime Diaz, Rosemarie Fernandez-Ruel, Rose Guilbault, Nyla Gemple, Mary Hernandez, Sonia Melara, Gloria Ramos, Kenneth Romines, Manuel Rosales and Veronica Sanchez. The Latino/Hispanic group asks that a community meeting room, a place to bring people together, be named for their community.

(End Special Sidebar/Boxed area)

-0-

SEP 29 2003

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

San Francisco Public Library Commission

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4733
Phone 415.557.4233, Fax 415.557.4240

09-29-03P02:32 RCLY0

NOTICE OF MEETING

A regular meeting of the San Francisco Public Library Commission will be held as follows:

DATE: Thursday, October 2, 2003
TIME: 4:00 PM
PLACE: Koret Auditorium, Main Library, lower level

The meeting will be called to order.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** **ACTION**
Presentation of, discussion of, and possible action to approve the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of September 4, 2003.
Explanatory document: draft Minutes
2. **CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT** by City Librarian Susan Hildreth **DISCUSSION**
(This item is to allow the City Librarian to report on recent Library activities and make announcements)
The City Librarian will report on the following subjects: a Tool Lending Center update; a Glen Park Branch update; a KQED Forum Live report; a report on the landmarking of the Sunset and Presidio Branches; and exhibits and programs.
3. **SUMMER READING REPORT** **DISCUSSION**
Presentation of and discussion of a report on the Library's Summer Reading 2003 activities.
4. **AFFINITY CENTERS UPDATE REPORT** **DISCUSSION**
Presentation of and discussion of reports concerning the activities of the San Francisco History and Hormel Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender (GLBT) Affinity Centers.
5. **LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN 2003/06** **ACTION**
Presentation and discussion of and possible action to approve a proposed 2003/06 Strategic Plan for the Library.
Explanatory document: 2003/06 Strategic Plan
6. **BALIS UPDATE REPORT** **DISCUSSION**
Presentation of and discussion of an update report on Bay Area Library & Information Systems (BALIS) Advisory Board activities.
7. **COMMISSION MEETINGS SCHEDULE** **ACTION**
Presentation of, discussion of, and possible action to approve a schedule of dates for the regular Commission Meetings for 2004.
Explanatory document: draft 2004 meetings schedule

12/03
Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Charles A. Higuera, A.L.A.
President

Carol Steiman
Vice President

Helen Marte Bautista
Lonnie K. Chin
Steven A. Coulter
Fran A. Streets
Deborah Strobin
Commissioners

Susan Hildreth
City Librarian

Michael Housh
Commission Secretary



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION - ACCESSIBLE MEETINGS POLICY

TO ENSURE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DISABLED PUBLIC IN ALL COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETINGS, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CONCERNING ACCESSIBILITY WILL BE AVAILABLE:

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS OR NOTE TAKERS WILL BE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. PLEASE CONTACT SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED AT 415/557-4433 (TDD) OR 415/557-4434 (VOICE) AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. LATE REQUESTS WILL BE HONORED IF POSSIBLE.

A SOUND ENHANCEMENT SYSTEM WILL BE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AT THE MEETINGS. PLEASE CONTACT SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED AT 415/557-4433 (TDD) OR 415/557-4434 (VOICE) AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. LATE REQUESTS WILL BE HONORED IF POSSIBLE.

A PERSON WHO IS DEAF OR HEARING IMPAIRED MAY GAIN MEETING INFORMATION PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY CALLING 415/557-4433 (TDD) OR 415/557-4434 (VOICE). IN ADDITION, THE CALIFORNIA RELAY SERVICE CAN BE USED BY INDIVIDUALS WITH HEARING AND SPEECH IMPAIRMENTS BY CALLING 1-800/735-2929 (TDD) OR 1-800/735-2992 (VOICE).

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS. IF YOU REQUIRE THE USE OF A READER DURING THE MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT HANDICAPPED AT 415/557-4253 AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE NEED.

INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE ALLERGIES, ENVIRONMENTAL ILLNESS, MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY OR RELATED DISABILITIES SHOULD CALL THE ACCESSIBILITY HOTLINE AT 415/554-8925 TO DISCUSS MEETING ACCESSIBILITY. IN ORDER TO ASSIST SAN FRANCISCO'S EFFORTS TO ACCOMMODATE SUCH PEOPLE, ATTENDEES AT PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE REMINDED THAT OTHER ATTENDEES MAY BE SENSITIVE TO VARIOUS CHEMICAL-BASED PRODUCTS. PLEASE HELP THE CITY TO ACCOMMODATE THESE INDIVIDUALS.

LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE MAIN LIBRARY, 100 LARKIN STREET AT GROVE, LOWER LEVEL, KORET AUDITORIUM, EXCEPT WHEN OTHERWISE NOTICED. THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. THE CLOSEST ACCESSIBLE BART STATION IS CIVIC CENTER. THE ACCESSIBLE MUNI LINE SERVING THIS LOCATION IS THE #19 POLK. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT MUNI'S ACCESSIBLE SERVICE, PLEASE CALL 415/923-6142.

THERE IS ACCESSIBLE PARKING AVAILABLE AT 355 McALLISTER, CIVIC CENTER PLAZA GARAGE. CALL 415/863-1537.

ACCESSIBLE SEATING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (INCLUDING THOSE USING WHEELCHAIRS) WILL BE AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS.

THE RINGING OF AND USE OF CELL PHONES, PAGERS AND SIMILAR SOUND-PRODUCING ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE PROHIBITED AT THIS MEETING. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE CHAIR MAY ORDER THE REMOVAL FROM THE MEETING ROOM OF ANY PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RINGING OR USE OF A CELL PHONE, PAGER, OR OTHER SIMILAR SOUND PRODUCING ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

GOVERNMENT'S DUTY IS TO SERVE THE PUBLIC, REACHING ITS DECISIONS IN FULL VIEW OF THE PUBLIC. COMMISSIONS, BOARDS, COUNCILS AND OTHER AGENCIES OF THE CITY AND COUNTY EXIST TO CONDUCT THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS. THIS ORDINANCE ASSURES THAT DELIBERATIONS ARE CONDUCTED BEFORE THE PEOPLE AND THAT CITY OPERATIONS ARE OPEN TO THE PEOPLE'S REVIEW.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 67 OF THE SAN FRANCISCO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE) OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT DONNA HALL, ADMINISTRATOR, THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE, CITY HALL, ROOM 409 1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-4689 OR AT 415/554-7724 PH. 415/554-5163 FAX AND WEBSITE AT DONNA_HALL@sfgov.org. COPIES OF THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CLERK OF THE SUNSHINE TASK FORCE, THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.SFGOV.ORG/SUNSHINE

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

ATTENTION: INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES THAT INFLUENCE OR ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE LOCAL LEGISLATIVE OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE (SF CAMPAIGN & GOVERNMENTAL CONDUCT CODE SEC. 2.100) TO REGISTER AND REPORT LOBBYING ACTIVITY. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOBBYIST ORDINANCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE ETHICS COMMISSION AT 30 VAN NESS AVENUE, SUITE 3900, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102, TELEPHONE (415) 581-2300, FAX (415) 581-2317 AND WEB SITE: SFGOV.ORG/ETHICS.

MICHAEL HOUSH, COMMISSION SECRETARY

9/11/03



8. LIBRARY HISTORY PLAQUES

DISCUSSION

Presentation of and discussion of a proposal to create a series of plaques chronicling the history of the San Francisco Public Library from its beginnings until the present and honoring those who made significant contributions to be located in the Larkin Street entrance of the Main Library.

Explanatory Document: Wall of Library Heroes memo

9. FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY REPORT

DISCUSSION

(This item is to allow the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library to inform the Commission of their current and proposed activities.)

10. LABOR UNION REPORT

(This item is to allow members of library labor organizations to report on employee matters within the Commission's purview as well as to suggest new agenda items for the Library Commission's consideration.)

11. NEW BUSINESS

(This item is to allow Commissioners to introduce new agenda items for consideration.)

12. PUBLIC COMMENT

(This item is to allow members of the public to comment generally on matters within the Commission's purview as well as to suggest new agenda items for the Library Commission's consideration.)

13. ADJOURNMENT (requires motion and public comment)

ACTION

9/29/03 - M.Housh, Commission Secretary

Explanatory documents: Copies of listed explanatory documents are available as follows: (1) from the Commission Secretary/Custodian of Records, Main Library, 6th Floor, (2) in the rear of the Koret Auditorium immediately before and during the meeting, and (3) to the extent possible, on the Library's website at <http://sfpl.org/>.

Additional materials not listed as explanatory documents on this agenda, if any, that are distributed to the Library Commissioners prior to or during the meeting in connection with any agenda item will be available to the public for inspection and copying in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.1 and Sunshine Ordinance §§ 67.9, 67.28(b)& 67.28(d).

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION
DRAFT 2004 MEETING SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2004 MEETINGS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 AT 4:00PM &
TUESDAY JANUARY 20, 2004 AT 4:00PM

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 4:00PM

FEBRUARY 5, MARCH 4, APRIL 1, MAY 6, JUNE 3,
SEPTEMBER 2, OCTOBER 7, NOVEMBER 4, AND
DECEMBER 2, 2004

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 4:00PM

JANUARY 15, FEBRUARY 19, MARCH
18, APRIL 15, MAY 20, JUNE 17, JULY 15,
AUGUST 19, SEPTEMBER 16,
OCTOBER 21, NOVEMBER 18, AND
DECEMBER 16, 2004.

Wall of Library Heroes An Invitation for Public Comment

The San Francisco Public Library Commission is developing a series of plaques in the Larkin Street entrance of the New Main Library to commemorate the history of the institution and recognize the many individuals and organizations that have shaped it since 1877.

The project is in two sections. The first, *Keepers of the Dream*, is a philosophical statement about the role of the public library in San Francisco and mentions a few of the heroes who stepped forward from the community to champion its cause. This plaque has already been approved by the Library Commission after public review and is installed at the Larkin Street entrance. It is the first plaque in a series.

The second section is the *Wall of Library Heroes* and gives a more detailed look at SFPL history year by year. The focus is on institutional milestones, individual community leaders and the stories of what they did. While a few staff members are mentioned, the emphasis is on people from the community, unpaid volunteers who stepped forward to lead. We recognize that staff is critical to the function of any organization and there have been many heroes. There are existing programs to honor their work and other programs may be developed in the future.

The historical emphasis, as suggested in *Keepers of the Dream*, is activity since the mid-1900s. It is this section that is now open for public comment. It is expected that this section will cover six plaques, each three feet by three feet square. Our hope is that future generations will continue to tell the story of the Library on these walls, adding additional plaques to inform and inspire. All information will also be available via the Library web site. In this document we include both *Keepers of the Dream* and the *Wall of Library Heroes* so you can see them in context.

The history section is based heavily on the 1995 book *A Free Library in this City* by Peter Booth Wiley. Additional material was provided by various organizations and individuals involved with the Library system.

We understand that history is complicated to tell, change is difficult and everyone has strong opinions, particularly in this city. We have tried to give some context and have included criticism as well as praise. We also see this as a wall of *heroes* so the emphasis is on good works.

We are asking if we have missed any important stories, individuals or milestones or if we have made any mistakes in content, accuracy, spelling or other items.

Contact Library Commission Secretary Mike Housh, San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco CA 94102. You can also email mhoush@sfppl.org or bring suggestions to any of three Commission hearings scheduled on this issue.

Library Commission
September 18, 2003

(This page only— approved in April 2003 by the SFPL Commission after two public hearings)

Keepers of the Dream

Our free public library is a cultural institution unlike any other.

Inside is the history of the world, our greatest literature, ideas to strengthen our democracy, insights into science and business. It is a house of books and an electronic discovery center. You can travel to the stars or inside an atom, sail on a pirate ship or take any journey of the imagination. It is a magical place for children, a workroom for writers, a treasure chest for scholars. It is an educational and cultural resource. It reflects and respects our social diversity. It is a champion of intellectual freedom. It is this and more.

Yet the library is fragile, depending on elected officials who care, the good will of voters, the talent of its staff and citizens who understand its purpose and champion its cause.

The San Francisco Public Library struggled from the beginning, its history a mixture of inspired leadership and long periods of civic disinterest.

In the late 1950s, after years of decline, the San Francisco Public Library found its modern day angels. Imbued with civic spirit, a group of citizens demanded change. A great city, they argued, needed a great public library system. They dreamed big and worked tirelessly to create something tangible and important for future generations. Their struggle lasted 40 years. Charming or feisty, depending on the situation, often audacious, sometimes controversial, they made all the difference.

Many shared the dream and worked to achieve it. We honor them and thank the people of San Francisco for their faith and support. We also offer special recognition to three for extraordinary leadership, vision, and tenacity, inspiring others to join the cause. This trio led the effort through the decades, never losing hope, never accepting defeat, never forgetting the dream: Marjorie G. Stern, Mary Louise Stong, Margaret 'Mig' Mayer

This building is hereby dedicated to their civic spirit, their selfless leadership, their devotion to the ideals of a public library, and to the passion that made them keepers of the dream.

We are grateful.

Willie L. Brown, Jr., *Mayor*

SFPL Commission
Charles A. Higuera, *President*
Carol Steiman, *Vice President*
Helen Marte Bautista
Lonnie K. Chin

Steven A. Coulter
Fran A. Streets
Deborah Strobin
Commissioners

Susan Hildreth, *City Librarian*

April 4, 2003

Wall of Library Heroes

In creating this *Wall of Library Heroes*, the Library Commission seeks to capture many of the stories that shaped this cultural icon and the names of individuals who stepped forward offering leadership, perseverance and hope. We have selected items, big and small, positive and negative, which we believe reflect the dynamic, complex nature and history of the Library system and the city it serves.

Our focus is on unpaid citizen volunteers and champions. There have also been many heroes on staff and their fine work is honored in other programs. We recognize that telling history can be a perilous task. We acknowledge that not every detail or every individual who did important work is listed here. Future generations may inscribe on these walls other stories and the names of new heroes, *Keepers of the Dream*, who keep alive the promise of a “free public library in this city.”

History of the San Francisco Public Library

San Francisco was a literate place by boomtown standards. Although wild and often lawless following the discovery of gold in 1848, some observers said the City had more newspapers in more languages than London and more college graduates than any other city in the country. While some claimed the City put Gomorrah to shame, others pointed out that it had a large number of bookstores, attracted writers such as Ambrose Bierce, Mark Twain and Bret Harte and boasted major book publishers and collectors such as Hubert Howe Bancroft.

In 1852 you could visit several private libraries, including one in the What Cheer House, a temperance hotel. The Mercantile Association formed the city's first subscription library in 1853; dues were \$1 a month. Also in 1853 there are reports of a group of black merchants opening the Athenaeum Library Company. The Mechanics' Institute library opened in 1854 and still exists.

The late 1870s were troubled times for San Francisco. There was widespread unemployment, labor unrest, anti-Chinese agitation and resentment toward civic corruption and the wealthy, powerful men who dominated politics. Into this atmosphere the San Francisco Public Library was born.

1877

Residents of San Francisco hold a meeting at Dashaway Hall on Post Street to create a funding mechanism for a free public library. The project is initiated by cable car inventor Andrew Hallidie and State Senator George H. Rogers. Hallidie is a former President of the Mechanics' Institute and frustrated in his attempts to turn that library into a privately endowed public institution. He hopes a free public library can draw some restless young men from the bars and fleshpots of the city's more notorious neighborhoods. A resolution passed by the group states:

"Whereas, We, the citizens of San Francisco, here assembled, believe that the dissemination of education among people is the only safeguard to republican liberty and government, and believing the establishment of public libraries to be the best and cheapest means of educating the people, therefore; Resolved, That we do most heartily approve of the project about to be inaugurated for the establishment of a free library in this city and do pledge to the same our hearty and united support."

1878

Governor William Irwin signs into law the Rogers Act, allowing any city to levy a property tax to raise Library funds and create a *Board of Library Trustees* to oversee it. In order to keep the Library free from the general corruption of City politics, the Board of Trustees is self-perpetuating rather than being appointed by the mayor.

1879

The first City Librarian, Albert Hart, is hired.

The first Board of Trustees includes Andrew Hallidie and ten other mostly self-made men including a carpenter, a social activist, a couple of lawyers and six businessmen.

The Board of Supervisors votes to support the Library but fails to allocate sufficient funds. The Board also is unwilling to provide space in any publicly owned building.

On its own, the Library opens on gifts and credit, renting space in the theatre district on Bush Street. It is an immediate success with the public. Women have their own section.

1880

Librarian Hart resigns due to stress over the lack of funds. He is replaced by Charles Robinson who quits after seven months claiming that he is overworked.

Supervisors hold up allocation of funds in a struggle over patronage jobs. A judge orders the funds released.

The next City Librarian, Frederic Beecher Perkins, is a cousin of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Perkins provides Library pages with slippers so they will not make noise going up ladders to retrieve books. He also removes "dirty books" from the collection and warns "a library is not...a haunt for loafers and criminals."

The annual library budget is now \$48,000.

1885

Supervisors reduce Library revenues to \$18,000 a year, eliminating the book budget. Librarian Perkins declares that opponents are out to destroy the Library if they cannot control it.

1887

Perkins, tired of the budget fights, resigns amidst a public squabble over ejecting an unruly youth from the Library. Poet John Vance Cheney is named as his replacement. Cheney is working as a cashier in the Post Office when offered the job as Chief Librarian.

1888

The Main Library moves to the Larkin Street wing of the new City Hall, on a site later known as Marshall Square and the eventual site of the current new Main Library.

The Public Library opens its first three branches in the Mission, North Beach and Potrero districts.

1892

Richmond Branch opens near Golden Gate Park.

1893

The Main Library relocates within City Hall to the third floor of the McAllister Street wing.

1894

The Library annual report notes that the 38 employees of the Library make about \$48.95 per month, less than other city workers.

1895

Travel books and other literature are provided on special women's tables to help "take from them the desire for trashy literature."

George T. Clark is appointed City Librarian and begins expanding the collection. Circulation doubles in five years.

1896

James Duval Phelan, wealthy son of one of the original 49ers, is elected Mayor with a goal of reforming city politics and introducing European style urban planning. He supports construction of a separate Main Library, a goal of the Library Trustees. He will become a major supporter and patron of the Library.

To help protect the Library from patronage politics, examinations are required for Library jobs.

1898

A new City Charter increases the tax assessment for the Library Fund, setting a minimum appropriation of \$75,000. But it will take five years for the Library to actually receive that amount.

Presidio Branch opens on Fillmore Street.

Ten thousand books, about one tenth of the collection, are placed in open stacks.

1901

Mayor Phelan donates \$16,000 to build a branch South of Market. It includes a library for the blind. He also gives money for libraries in the city's almshouses and to two high schools.

Phelan announces plans to build a new Main Library and several new branches and convinces the Andrew Carnegie Foundation to pledge \$750,000.

The San Francisco Labor Council opposes the Carnegie donation arguing that the philanthropist was anti-labor and the offer was a "*presumptuous claim of a wealthy nonresident to dictate our municipal policy in the assumed name of philanthropy.*" Supervisors disagree and vote to accept the offer although it will take years until the City is ready to use it for a new Main Library.

1902

Businessman Andrew J. McCreery donates \$45,000 for a branch in Eureka Valley.

1903

Voters approve a bond issue for a new Main Library, but bond problems and a fight over location doom the effort. The Carnegie offer remains in limbo.

Chicago architect Daniel Burnham, leader of the City Beautiful movement, begins to design a master plan for San Francisco, including a Civic Center with a new library building.

1906

Burnham presents his final plan for the city's redesign.

A major earthquake destroys City Hall in seconds and a fire destroys the book collection at the Main Library. Said an eyewitness inspecting the damage: *"There was only a thin white ash where a hundred and sixty thousand books had been."* The Phelan (South of Market) and North Beach branches are destroyed, the McCreery (Eureka Valley) Branch is severely damaged and most Library employees are left homeless.

Fifteen thousand items are out on loan at the time; 1,500 eventually come back, the last, a group of periodicals from the 1850s, in 1996.

1907

A temporary Main Library is built at Hayes and Franklin streets.

George Clarke resigns as City Librarian and is replaced by William R. Watson, the first person trained as a professional librarian to head the system.

1909

A new Park Branch opens near the Panhandle.

The City begins to raise funds and consider plans for a new Civic Center.

1910

Supervisors put a charter amendment on the ballot to change the Library *Board of Trustees* from a self-perpetuating to an elected board. Voters turn it down. Angry, the Board of Supervisors cuts the Library budget.

1911

Music teacher Julius Rehn Weber arranges for the purchase of the 10,000-item music library from the Schirmer Music Library in Boston. Over the next decade he helps the Library develop the collection to become one of the best in the country.

1912

A ballot measure approves bond money for a new City Hall and Civic Center.

The Library asks the Carnegie Foundation to fulfill its 1901 funding pledge. Former Mayor and Library Trustee Edward Taylor opposes use of the Carnegie money and is backed by the Labor Council. Library Trustees and Supervisors vote overwhelmingly to accept the funds. Opponents put the question on the ballot but voters approve the Carnegie funds.

Robert Rea becomes City Librarian where he has worked since he was 13 years old.

1914

The temporary Main Library reaches capacity.

A contest is held for the design of the new Main Library. Architect George W. Kelham, who designed the Palace Hotel and is chief architect for the Panama-Pacific Exposition, is selected. It will be built in a formal Beaux Arts style.

Another architect who did not win the contest sues, charging that the design is similar to the design of the Detroit Public Library. But the case is dismissed. The *San Francisco Chronicle* laments, “*There has been little new in architecture in the last hundred years—that is, monumental architecture.*”

Carnegie Foundation funds are earmarked for the construction of five permanent branch buildings.

The new Richmond Branch opens with funds from Carnegie.

1915

Ground is broken for the new Main Library. Mayor James “Sunny Jim” Rolph and other officials take part in the ceremony.

1916

The cornerstone for the Main Library is laid, ten years after the devastating earthquake of 1906. A silver trowel commemorating the event goes into the San Francisco Library’s history collection.

Noe Valley Branch opens through funds from the Carnegie Foundation.

1917

By horse and wagon, books are moved into the new Main Library.

The Main Library opens on February 15, 1917. Five hundred people take part in the ceremony. The building cost is \$1.153 million. Library Trustee and Board of Education President Joseph O’Connor refers to the building as “*this magnificent chaste temple of learning.*”

1918

Sunset and Golden Gate Valley branches open with funds from the Carnegie Foundation.

1920

At the instigation of Library Trustee William Young, the Main Library begins to acquire rare books. The Library also starts collecting works from San Francisco's fine printers and binders who are gaining international stature.

1921

Carnegie Foundation funds build two new buildings: North Beach Branch on Powell Street and Presidio Branch on Sacramento Street

A new Eureka Valley Branch opens, replacing the McCreery Branch that was damaged in the 1906 earthquake.

The Library budget is \$185,000 a year. Librarians are paid \$85 to \$95 a month, less than other City employees.

1925

Excelsior and Ingleside branches open.

1926

A report by the San Francisco Center indicates that Library children's services are under-funded and that the Library was *"the one large public library in the country which does not appreciate the value of assistants who are graduates of library schools."*

1927

Glen Park and Bayview branches open.

The Library names the rare book and fine printing collection as a memorial to Max J. Kuhl, a rare book collector and the attorney for the Panama-Pacific Exhibition of 1915. Several rare book enthusiasts help build the collection including Albert Bender who donates a Kelmscott Chaucer, a Dove's Press Bible and pages from the first and second folio Ashendene Spenser.

1928

Portola and Ocean View branches open.

Library Trustees President James Phelan commissions an outside study of the Library. The report states that the collection is excellent considering its near destruction in the 1906 earthquake and fire, but the Library is under-funded, and staff is largely untrained and seriously underpaid. Igniting a controversy, the study suggests replacing City Librarian Robert Rea with someone trained in library science. The League of Women Voters does its own survey and defends Rea. He retires in 1945.

1929

The Business Branch opens in the financial district.

With the Great Depression, Library funding declines but the number of people using the Library skyrocketed.

1931

The Police Department is allowed to use the basement of the Main Library for target practice.

A new City Charter turns the Library Board of Trustees into a Commission appointed by the Mayor.

1932

Anza Branch opens.

1933

As poor economic times continue, Mayor Angelo Rossi appoints a Citizens Advisory Committee that recommends major cuts in the Library budget. The book budget is cut significantly.

1935

Visitacion Valley Branch opens.

Mayor Rossi seeks federal help to build new branches on permanent city-owned sites. The City receives \$90,000.

1936

Parkside, West Portal and Bernal branches open, all in rental sites.

1939

West Portal Branch opens.

1940

Library staff, almost entirely women, campaigns successfully for civil service protection.

A new Bernal Branch opens in a city owned site.

Mayor Rossi and the Library Commission approve an ambitious plan to expand branches and establish a branch in every public school but it is never implemented.

Local businessman Alfred Furhman dies and bequeaths a portion of his estate to the Library for the purchase of books on economics and political subjects. The gift provides thousands of books and other materials through the present.

1943

The Main Library reaches capacity.

The City seeks federal Works Progress Administration funds to build an addition to the Main Library but is unsuccessful.

Library card holding and circulation began a slow decline that will continue for several years.

Mayor Roger Lapham seeks federal funds for construction of ten branches but is turned down.

1944

Mayor Lapham, before he appoints trial lawyer Nat Schmulowitz to the Library Commission, asks for his assessment on what to do with the Library. Schmulowitz gives a negative report borrowing metaphors from Jonathan Swift: there is a group on the Commission that treats books as sarcophagi for knowledge, the Library as a cemetery, the Librarian as the undertaker and the Commission and staff as honorary and active pallbearers.

After his appointment to the Commission, Schmulowitz is elected President. He recommends an outside study of the Library and community leaders suggest the Library improve and expand services.

1945

Robert Rea resigns as City Librarian after 56 years with the Library. Commission Secretary Laurence J. Clarke is appointed to succeed him, the second professional librarian to hold the post. He begins to make plans for a bond issue for an addition to the Main and hopes to expand other services.

1947

On April Fools Day, Schmulowitz donates his collection on *Wit and Humor* to the Library and gives an endowment. The collection eventually grows to become one of the largest of its kind in the world and is named in his honor.

The Library faces serious budget problems. The federal government threatens to stop providing government documents free of charge after it discovers the Library is not making them available to the public.

1948

A bond issue for 18 new branches and an addition to the Main Library, championed by City Librarian Clarke, fails by 12,000 votes. It will be 40 years before there is another vote.

The Library Commission writes to the Board of Supervisors, "*The history of the library clearly shows the lack of interest by the City Administration in the building up of library service.*" The report is ignored.

1949

Citizens concerned about the future of the Library meet to form the first, short-lived *Friends of the San Francisco Public Library*. Nat Schmulowitz presides; Dr. Charles Albert Schumate is elected President. Mary Louise Stong is one of the participants.

1951

The new Parkside and Potrero branches open replacing rented facilities.

1953

Voters turn down a limited bond issue to reorganize the Main Library and make it more efficient.

1954

Marina Branch opens.

1956

Ortega Branch opens.

1957

Anna Waden, a health department employee of modest means, leaves money in her will to construct a new branch in Bayview/Hunters Point.

The *Chronicle* runs a series of critical articles on the Library by reporter Hale Champion. One headline asks, "*Where are the books?*" while another article states "*Public Library a Disgrace to San Francisco.*"

Eureka Valley Branch is damaged in an earthquake.

1958

The Library Commission retains Emerson Greenaway, President of the American Library Association, to survey San Francisco's Library and make recommendations. His report urges additional city funding, improvements to the Main Library and the hiring of trained staff. Long term, he says, a new building is needed.

Merced Branch opens.

1959

Mayor George Christopher appoints a '*Committee of 50*' prominent citizens to examine the decline of the Library system, particularly the Main Library. Marjorie Stern is one of the members.

A grand jury report says the Main Library is gloomy, soiled and odoriferous, a kind of skid row hostel for the homeless, a building that is out of date. Only 1500 books were checked out in 1959 vs. 12,000 a year previously.

The new North Beach Branch opens. The old North Beach Branch, a Carnegie building on Powell Street, is renamed Chinatown Branch.

1960

San Franciscans for a Better Library, a citizens group, is formed.

William R. Holman, a librarian from San Antonio, is hired to head the San Francisco Library system. He says "*San Francisco is a bookish, unique city and it certainly does not deserve a third-rate library.*" He estimates that thousands of book catalog cards are missing and tens of thousands of books have yet to be cataloged.

1961

Prominent residents meet to form another Library support group, the *San Francisco Library League*.

The Committee of 50, San Franciscans for a Better Library and the *San Francisco Library League* join forces under a new name:

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

(For leadership, see Box 1, *Friends of the San Francisco Public Library*).

City Librarian William Holman makes a master's degree in library science a requirement for new librarians.

1962

A new Eureka Valley Branch opens.

1963

Calligrapher Richard Harrison donates his collection to the Library.

1964

The *Friends* organization holds its first annual book sale of material donated to the Library. It is chaired by Hilde Kolb and raises \$4,000 to purchase rare materials for the Library. Over the years, this sale becomes the biggest in the western United States and raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Library. (For leadership, see Box 1, *Friends Book Sale*).

The Main Library establishes a collection of material on local history.

1965

The *Friends* lobby the City for more funds and the book budget gets a significant increase.

The Library receives the private collection of Robert Grabhorn on the *History of Printing and the Development of the Book*, half of it a gift from the *Friends*.

1966

Western Addition Branch opens.

Margaret 'Mig' Mayer becomes the first Executive Director of the Friends of the Library. She will work behind the scenes for twenty-five years supporting improved library services.

The State Librarian designates San Francisco Public Library as the hub of the Bay Area Reference Center (BARC), one of three regional reference groups.

1967

William R. Holman resigns as City Librarian saying he is proud of the Rare Books and Special Collections Department he helped create but tired of internal conflicts. The *Examiner* says he inherited "*one of the most infamous cultural fossils in the country*" and moved it in the direction of becoming a modern library.

1968

Tucson librarian John Anderson is hired to head the San Francisco system. Anderson describes the Main Library as "*the worst metropolitan library in the country.*"

Marjorie Stern is appointed to the Library Commission where she will serve until 1989.

A new Excelsior Branch is dedicated.

1969

San Francisco librarians organize a union, the *Librarians Guild*, which later becomes an affiliate of SEIU, Local 790. A separate existing organization, the *Staff Association*, continues through the early 1990s.

The new Anna E. Waden Branch opens in Bayview, named after its benefactor.

1970

Librarians join other city workers in a four-day strike protesting a proposal to restrict wage increases for city employees.

1971

The *Friends* donate the first bookmobile to serve older adults.

1972

Mayor Joseph Alioto faces a major budget deficit and announces closure of Ocean View, Portola and Golden Gate branches to save money. He later drops his plans.

Friends members form a new organization to lobby the state and city for more funding—*Keep Libraries Alive!* Leaders include Sally Brunn, Grace Macduff Parker, Billie Pearl-Schuler, Mary Louise Stong and Marjorie Stern.

1973

City Librarian Anderson resigns, saying he was given responsibility to run the institution but not the authority to appoint the personnel he needed to get the job done. Mayor Alioto names historian Kevin Starr the Acting City Librarian and will later make him permanent director.

1974

A major fight develops over a site Library supporters hoped to use for a new Main Library. Doubting that the Library can raise the needed private funds for a new Main, Mayor Alioto announces that he is backing Marshall Square as site of a new Symphony Hall. Library Commission President Ed Callanan urges that the Mayor find a different location. Library supporters campaign against the move. With the help of Supervisors Ron Pelosi and Bob Mendelsohn and assistance from attorney William Coblentz, a parking lot is released by the Board of Education for the Symphony Hall site and the Library gets Marshall Square.

The Library pioneers the establishment of services for the hearing and sight impaired using video and audiotapes. A *Library for the Blind and Print Handicapped* is eventually established at Presidio Branch.

1975

City Librarian Starr requests an increase in the budget and, in the Spirit of 1776, marches the document over to City Hall followed by a Fife and Drum Corps dressed as Minutemen. The Library gets a six percent increase.

1976

The Library's first automation system is installed.

The Library begins its Black Oral History Project.

"Meet Me At the San Francisco Public Library," a public relations campaign, encourages people to visit the Library and meet William Shakespeare, Mark Twain, the Cat in the Hat and others. It is developed by Friends board member John van der Zee.

Starr steps down as City Librarian. During the search for a new department head, three different interim directors are appointed, two for one month each and one, Edwin Castagna, for six months.

1977

John Frantz is named City Librarian. He once headed the Brooklyn Public Library and worked with the Iranian government to build a new national library.

1978

The Eureka Valley Branch is renamed as a memorial to slain Supervisor Harvey Milk, a long time Library supporter and member of the *Friends*.

Passage of *Proposition 13*, rolling back property taxes, seriously impacts the City's ability to fund the Library and other public agencies.

City Guides, offering free neighborhood history tours, is started by Judith Lynch in the Main Library's San Francisco History Room.

1979

San Francisco Public Library celebrates its 100th birthday with a giant cake and party in Civic Center Plaza. *Friends* President David Lelewer cuts the first piece with the silver plated trowel used in 1916 when the cornerstone of the old Library was put in place.

1980

City Librarian Frantz threatens closure of ten neighborhood branches and the business branch if a proposed 20 percent budget cut is enacted. The *Keep Libraries Alive!* group demonstrates at City Hall. The *Friends* pay the rent for the Business Branch.

The *Friends* assume responsibility for continuing the *City Guides* program.

1981

A budget compromise keeps all branches open.

The Library pioneers in the selection of children's books celebrating diverse cultures and devoid of social stereotypes. The collection is named the *Effie Lee Morris Historical and Research Collection of Children's Literature*, honoring the Library's first Coordinator of Children's Services.

1982

A report by Columbia University library expert Lowell Martin recommends consolidation of branches to save money and improve service quality. The report catalyzes the opposite effect, increasing public support for the branches.

The *Friends* open *Book Bay* at Fort Mason to sell donated books and materials. The money helps fund Library projects the City could otherwise not afford.

The *Friends* and City Arts & Lectures, led by Sydney Goldstein, launch a literary lecture series that proves popular with the reading public.

Mary Louise Stong is appointed to the Library Commission, where she will serve for the next six years.

1983

Project Read, a program teaching adults how to read, is launched by the *Friends*. Olive "Babs" Waugh is its first director. Later, the Library will take over operation of the program.

1985

Attorney James W. Haas, a member of the *Friends* board, convinces the group to support a masterplan for the entire Civic Center. He writes Mayor Feinstein suggesting a new Main Library on Marshall Square while moving a museum into the old Main building.

Mayor Feinstein meets with City Librarian Frantz and commissioners Callanan, Stern and Stong. The mayor is skeptical of the Library's ability to raise significant private funds needed for a new building but listens to their arguments.

Book Buddies, a program using volunteers to read and tell stories to ill children in hospitals, is initiated.

Mayor Feinstein asks for a ten percent budget cut from the Library and other agencies to address a budget shortfall.

1986

Mayor Feinstein asks Deputy City Mayor Peter Henschel to form a task force to develop a Civic Center masterplan.

A report by consultants Becker and Hayes/Omni-Group criticizes the Main and calls for building a new Library next door on Marshall Square.

Hundreds of Library supporters meet at the Main Library and hear New York City Librarian Vartan Gregorian speak eloquently about the need for a new Main Library. It is the 25th anniversary of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

1987

The Fire Marshal closes the stacks of the Main Library until 100,000 books are removed, calling it a fire hazard.

City Librarian John Frantz resigns, in part because he opposes building a new Main Library, believing that technology will reduce the need for physical storage space.

The *Friends* start organizing a political campaign, anticipating a bond issue for the new Main Library. (For leadership, see Box 1, *1988 Main Bond Campaign*).

A second study by Becker and Hayes/Omni-Group underscores the viability of Marshall Square for a new Library. Another study by consultant Skidmore Owings & Merrill recommends that the current Main Library be used as a museum.

Mayoral candidate Art Agnos advocates construction of a new Main Library, saying, "*We've had enough studies and task forces. Let's act.*" He is elected in December.

Deputy Mayor Henschel asks Asian Art Museum chair Judy Wilbur if the museum would be interested in leaving Golden Gate Park and taking over the old Main Library building. The idea is controversial. Her board expresses interest but no commitment is made.

Ken Dowlin, one of the nation's leading advocates for the high tech library of the future, is hired as the new City Librarian. *San Francisco Examiner* columnist Bill Mandel suggests it will take "*the Clint Eastwood of librarians*" to succeed given all the politics and challenges.

In the final weeks of her term, Mayor Feinstein sends the Board of Supervisors a series of recommendations for Civic Center, including building a new Library on Marshall Square and turning the old Library into a museum. A construction cost estimate for the new Main Library is \$120 million, a record level for a city bond. Officials overseeing city bond issues fear it will never pass and reduce the proposed funding for the Main by \$15.5 million. They then add \$5 million back for branch remodeling, hoping it will increase political support for the bond.

Marjorie Stern begins discussions with various business and community leaders about forming a *Library Foundation* to raise needed money for the new Main. She anticipates bond approval and knows that the bond will not cover fixtures, furniture and other upgrades. Many are skeptical about the Library's ability to raise money.
(For leadership, see Box 5, *Library Foundation & Main Campaign*).

1988

Mayor Agnos and the Board of Supervisors approve Proposition A for the November ballot, authorizing funds to build the new Main Library and to start branch renovations. They also approve Proposition N allowing the Asian Art Museum to take control of the old Main Library. Opponents of the Library bond say it is too expensive and it would be better to remodel the old Main.

Seventy-six percent of voters approve the bond for a new Main Library.
(For leadership, see Box 1, *1988 Main Bond Campaign*).

The Asian Art Museum agrees to make the old Main Library its new home. The Museum and the new Main Library share a champion. In the late 1950s, Marjorie

Stern and a small group of Asian art enthusiasts convinced Chicago millionaire Avery Brundage to contribute his massive Asian art collection to San Francisco.

Marjorie Stern leaves the Library Commission and is named *Honorary Commissioner for Life* by Mayor Agnos.

A referendum allows collective bargaining for public employees. The Librarians Guild begins negotiating its first contract with the Library.

Budget problems force Mayor Agnos to propose cuts for various departments including the Library. A suggestion to temporarily close several branches meets strong community opposition. Eventually the Business Branch is closed but other branches are spared.

Mel and Charlotte Swig, major civic and philanthropic leaders, are approached about chairing the fundraising campaign for the new Main Library. They agree if an experienced foundation executive such as Martin Paley takes the Executive Director role. Paley agrees.

Philanthropist Ann G. Getty and Stanford Professor Emeritus John W. Gardner agree to be honorary co-chairs. Gardner, founder of Common Cause and HEW Secretary under President Lyndon Johnson, was a key architect of the Great Society.

1989

A committee of 25 community leaders, including Marjorie Stern, Mary Louise Stong and Mig Mayer, interview various architects for the new Main and recommend two firms working in association. The City approves the recommendation and hires Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein Moris of San Francisco, and Pei Cobb Freed & Partners of New York City. (For leadership, see Box 1, *Designing & Building the New Main*).

The challenge is designing a major new Library for the 21st Century replacing in essence a 19th Century building with outdated technology. At the same time, California's economy is in recession, the City budget is in the red and few believe the Library can raise millions of dollars in private funds.

Mig Mayer retires as Executive Director of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. Jane Winslow is selected to replace her.

The Loma Prieta earthquake damages the old Main. The seven level book stacks with glass floors twist as the earth moves shearing some glass into long thick shards and dumping hundreds of thousands of books on the floor. The Library is closed. City building officials say staff cannot be ordered into such an unsafe space. Ignoring the danger, staff members volunteer to retrieve the books. The staff and 300 community volunteers then move the books to

temporary storage space in an empty building in the Presidio. Repairs take several months.

When the Main re-opens, hundreds of people gather for a celebration, including a troupe of accordion players campaigning to make the accordion the official musical instrument of San Francisco. They succeed.

In support of freedom of speech, the Library hosts "I am Salman Rushdie" Day at the Main Library. Bay Area writers read excerpts from Rushdie's 1989 book *Satanic Verses*. Rushdie, Indian-born and a British citizen, has gone into hiding after the religious leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini, declared the book blasphemous and called for his assassination.

Another difficult budget year forces the Library to cut services. As part of the reductions, the Library officially stops updating the out-of-date and labor-intensive card catalog, anticipating a state-of-the-art computer system in a few years.

Box 1 (Special Sidebar/Boxed area)

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 1961-62

Founding members of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library include:

President: Alan K. Browne

Vice Presidents: General Edwin L. Johnson, David Magee, Jack Pollatsek and Marjorie Stern

Treasurer: William Mackey

Secretary: Mary Louise Stong

Board Members: John Bransten, Mortimer and Janet Fleishhacker, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. R. Gwin Follis, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Gerbode, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Haas, Lucille Mohr, Judith Pollatsek, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schwabacher Jr., Mrs. Nion Tucker, George and Sally Williams, Mrs. Dean Witter, and Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Zellerbach.

Over the next year, the *Friends* board membership grows to include: Mildred Bell, Mrs. Donald Biggs, William Brinton, Mrs. Francis Carroll, William Coblentz, Hunt Conrad, Mrs. Richard Dakin, Mrs. Ralph Doscher, Robert Drewes, Dr. Frank Fenton, E.H. Gauer, Carlton B. Goodlett, M.D., George Johns, Gustav Knecht, Jr., Lewis Lengfield, Mrs. Robert MacDuff, Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin, Robert Marcus, William Monihan, Eugene M. Price, Alvin Rockwell and Nat Schmulowitz.

Friends Book Sale, 1964

Leadership for the first book sale include Hugh Cook, Ann Grace, Hilde Kolb, Erma Kuta, Joan Leaf, Elaine Mundy, Richard Reinhardt, Ken Train and Helen Louise Weinstein.

Main Bond Campaign, 1988

The *Friends* start organizing for the anticipated Library bond in 1987. Marilyn Smulyan is hired to build grassroots support. Sally Brunn of Keep Libraries Alive! lobbies the Legislature for a state library bond measure and finds Senator Milton Marks and others supportive. Volunteers are recruited to build public support, including community leaders Aileen Hernandez and Joanne Foo, attorney Fred Rodriguez and labor leader Steve Neuberger of SEIU Local 790.

Once approved for the ballot, a formal bond campaign is formed. Sherry Agnos, wife of the new Mayor, and School Superintendent Ramon Cortines are honorary co-chairs. Dick Pabich runs the campaign with leadership from consultants Marilyn Smulyan and Robert Barnes and help from a Franciscan brother and Tenderloin neighborhood activist, Kelly Cullen. Hundreds of others assist the campaign effort.

Designing & Building the New Main

James Ingo Freed and Cathy Simon lead the design team with Project Manager Anthony Bernheim. Other members in leadership roles include City Librarian Ken Dowlin, Library Project Director Kathy Page and Library Commission President Steve Coulter.

San Francisco's Chief Administrative Officer Rudy Nothenberg leads the building efforts for the City with the help of project managers Russ Abel and later Jim Cheng. The General Contractor is Huber Hunt Nichols. Because the Library will be on the Civic Center Plaza, the Arts Commission oversees important design elements including the exterior of the building and its public art.

Prop E Campaign for Library Funding, 1994

The Friends of the Library launch a successful initiative to help stabilize Library funding and face significant opposition in their campaign. Leadership members include Friends President Diane Filippi, Mary Louise Stong, Carol Steiman, Dale Carlson, City Librarian Ken Dowlin, campaign managers John Whitehurst and Robert Barnes, pollster David Binder, David Spero and others. Steiman will later become a Library Commissioner.

(End special sidebar/boxed area)

1990

Sheet music collector Dorothy Starr dies, leaving a vast collection of 500,000 pieces of published music. The *Friends* purchase the collection from her estate for the Art & Music Department of the Library.

Design work for the new Main Library is underway. Because the Board of Supervisors had earlier reduced the bond size \$15.5 million, the architects and City officials eliminate one entire floor from the plan to stay within budget.

A public meeting is held at the Library for the Blind at the Presidio Branch to decide whether to relocate to the new Main Library. After vigorous debate, community leader Rose Resnick makes an impassioned speech to move to Civic Center. The group votes overwhelmingly to move.

Library Commissioner Ed Callanan, first appointed by Mayor Jack Shelley in 1964, steps down after 26 years of service.

1991

The Library Foundation begins public efforts to raise money for the new Main Library and the Chinatown Branch expansion.

A fundraising study by Charlie Howland suggests the Foundation will be unable to raise even \$20 million because California is in a recession and the Library has no existing donor base. Nevertheless, Mel Swig feels the Library needs more and increases the goal to \$25 million, with an additional \$5 million to start an endowment.

Over the next three years, the *Main Campaign*, as it will be called, raises \$36 million under the leadership of the Swigs and others.
(For leadership, see Box 5, *Library Foundation & Main Campaign*).

Chronicle Columnist Herb Caen proclaims that the new Library will henceforth be known as the *New Main*. Eventually the *New Main* periodical reading room will be named in his honor. One of his typewriters will be included in the collection.

The Library Commission adopts a *Five Year Strategic Plan* outlining new services for traditionally underserved communities, organizing around collections where there is broad public interest and developing more dependable sources of revenue.

Commission President Steve Coulter advocates creating a gay and lesbian historical archive, the first in a public library in the U.S. Leaders in the gay and lesbian community express strong support and help shape it. At a press conference, Mayor Agnos, Coulter and others announce its creation. Author Randy Shilts says, "*We're losing far too many people to the AIDS epidemic—it's essential we not lose our history, too.*"
(For leadership, see Box 5, *Gay & Lesbian Group*).

The Foundation supports the gay and lesbian archive but is concerned about raising money for one group when funds are needed for the entire building. The gay and lesbian organizing committee agrees to raise money for the Library

as a whole as well as the archive, setting the tone for other campaigns.

Library Foundation Executive Director Martin Paley, facing a skeptical donor community, believes the Library is the most democratic of public institutions. He makes that principal the heart of the campaign. "*Many of the City's diverse communities have both the interest and capacity to participate in private giving for the public good,*" says Paley, "*but generally are not asked to do so.*" Paley asks them and the communities respond with enthusiasm. Many are involved in a great civic campaign for the first time.

This effort to recruit all segments of the community in the fundraising and organizing around collections and services becomes known as the "*Affinity Group*" campaign. The initiative is extraordinarily successful and creates an emotional depth to the campaign as different communities share their dreams, new collections and services develop with staff help, and a new sense of philanthropy blossoms in the community. As the campaign approaches the \$30 million mark, over 18,000 individuals and organizations have contributed. Around the country, other libraries and civic efforts adopt a similar model. (For leadership, see Box 5, *Affinity Group Campaign*).

The City's busiest branch, Chinatown, is scheduled to be upgraded and doubled in size. A fundraising campaign, linked to the Chinese American Center in the Main Campaign, is organized. Community leader Rosalyn Koo plays a key role in the fundraising for both and in helping the Library manage problems in the City's handling of construction and design issues relating to the branch. (For leadership, see Box 5, *Friends of the Chinatown Branch*).

The Main Library opens the "*Prides & Joys*" exhibit of rare books and fine print volumes in the collection. It is organized by printer Andrew Hoyem, Marjorie Stern and other book collectors and rare book enthusiasts.

Library activist Sally Brunn dies and the Library Commission re-names the Noe Valley branch in her honor in 1992. Shortly before her death, friends and officials hold an event to thank her for her years of service. She requests that it be a Library fund-raiser. Over \$15,000 is raised to buy more books on political activism, according to her wish.

Labor unions help the Main building effort. The Building and Construction Trades Council led by Stan Smith agrees to tear down the old USO building on Marshall Square as a gift to the Library. During World War II, the same union built the USO as a gift to American soldiers.

The Library acquires the 10,000-volume gay and lesbian pulp fiction collection of book collectors Barbara Grier and Donna McBride of Florida. Other historic materials are donated or loaned to the Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center over the next few years, including the Harvey Milk/Scott Smith Collection, archives from

the *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society of Northern California*, materials from Mattachine Society founder Harry Hay, author Randy Shilts and filmmakers Peter Adair and Rob Epstein.

1992

Ground is broken for the New Main Library on Marshall Square. Mayor Frank Jordan uses the same silver shovel used by Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph to break ground for City Hall. Hundreds attend the ceremony.

The Library excavation uncovers part of the old jail and other rubble from City Hall when it collapsed in the 1906 earthquake. Also found are some hand bones and a wedding band, perhaps the last remains of the Yerba Buena Cemetery that once held more than 5,000 bodies and was removed in 1870.

The Library is again facing budget cuts and the economy is in a recession. With the cry of "*Find the Funds*," the *Keep Libraries Alive!* committee campaigns for more Library funding.

The *Friends* give the Library a new bookmobile to serve shut-ins and the elderly.

1993

Civic leader, philanthropist and co-chair of the Main Campaign, Mel Swig dies after a long illness. A few months earlier, Swig attends what will be his last Main Campaign rally. It is the emotional high point of the campaign. He listens as members of the *Affinity Groups* talk about what the campaign means to them and their communities, moving beyond symbolism to full participation in a great civic venture. An endowment is created in his name.

Another difficult budget year forces the Library to trim its book budget and hours.

A major political fight erupts when the Library proposes moving the Victorian era *Pioneer Monument* that sits at Hyde and Grove streets. It originally stood before the old City Hall that was demolished by the 1906 earthquake. Some historic preservationists fight the move, citing the statue's beauty and the historical relevance of the site; Native Americans call the statue racist. The Library Foundation pays to move the 800-ton monument to a site between the old Library and the new Main.

An anonymous group of donors offers to fund a program of the Library's choice. The Library accepts the offer and dramatically expands its telephone reference service.

1994

More proposed budget cuts mean dramatically reducing hours at some branches, further reductions in the book budget and staff reductions.

Mayor Jordan fires six of seven Library Commissioners in a budget dispute.

The Friends of the Library under the leadership of President Diane Filippi launch a ballot initiative for the Library to receive a minimal level of funding for books, materials and service hours to stop the boom and bust cycle of Library funding. When funds for the campaign run low, Mary Louise Stong loans the campaign money to continue the fight. Proposition E passes with over 70% of the vote. (For leadership, see Box 1, *Prop E Campaign*).

Friends for Life, a library volunteer program to bring books to those with HIV and AIDS who are housebound, is started.

The Library establishes Internet access and its initial Web site. It includes an online Community Services Directory of all San Francisco government agencies, community, neighborhood, health, human service and business groups.

Lessons learned from the Northridge earthquake in Southern California lead to re-welding critical joints in the New Main, which is still under construction. Sitting on rubber isolators that act as shock absorbers, the new building is designed to withstand an 8.3 earthquake.

The Library establishes a new program for people with dyslexia and other learning differences sponsored by the Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation and the Roberts Foundation.

Box 2

(Special Sidebar/boxed area)

Art in the New Main

The New Main Library contains a variety of major art pieces, some obtained through the City program for new buildings and others donated by individuals.

Three major pieces are incorporated into the building as part of a city program for art in new buildings.

Artists Ann Hamilton and Ann Chamberlain take cards from a duplicate staff card catalogue, invite patrons to write their observations or favorite quotes on the cards, and then embed them on three walls in the building.

Artist Nayland Blake creates a 21st Century high tech list of California authors on a five-story wall behind the grand staircase. Called *Constellation*, it has the names etched in mirror and then reflected by a fiber optic light cable.

Between the fifth and sixth floors of the suspended glass reading room that juts into the Main atrium is a conical and surreal spiral staircase created by sculptor Alice Aycock. Hanging in a great open space nearby is *Cyclone Fragment*, a ghost projection of the spiral stairs.

Other major pieces:

As a donation for the opening of the New Main, muralists Charlie Brown and Mark Evans painted the domed ceiling of the James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center. The mural is entitled *"Into the Light,"* featuring prominent gays and lesbians through history.

Guatemalan artist Emanuel Paniagua created a freestanding mural entitled *"Perhaps Better Voices (Talvez Mejores Voces)."* It is commissioned by School Board member Carlota del Portillo and donated to the Library for the Latino/Hispanic Room in 1997. It is a visual representation of the history of Latin American writers including characters from the literature of the pre-Hispanic Maya, the poetry of a 17th Century Mexican nun, and the epic verse of Argentina's free-wheeling gauchos.

The *"Double L Excentric Gyrotory"* mobile sculpture by artist George Rickey is installed outside the New Main in 1997. Two 18-foot steel arms shaped like Ls pivot, independent of each other, in response to air currents. It is a gift to the city from art patron Carl Djerassi.

(End of boxed sidebar)

1995

Because of Prop E funds, the book and materials budget triples in size and system open hours increase 46%. The Main Library begins its first serious inventory in decades. Branch libraries receive thousands of new books and staff begins weeding collections to make room for new materials.

At the end of the year, the old Main Library closes to the public. For the sixth time in its history, staff prepares to move the enormous Main collection, sorting through nearly a century's worth of accumulated materials. By hand and truck the collection is moved, this time just across the street. Tens of thousands of new books are purchased for the grand opening and tens of thousands more are donated by affinity groups and other organizations.

As librarians pull damaged, outdated or duplicate materials from the Main collection, a controversy erupts, foreshadowing rough times ahead. Critics allege that the Library is disposing of large numbers of books rather than move them to the new building. The Library administration defends the professional standards and judgment of staff. The argument escalates into a shrill debate on books and technology, tradition and change.

1996

Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. appoints a new Library Commission, replacing six of seven members. Sherry Agnos, honorary co-chair of the 1988 bond issue for the

New Main, is appointed. Fran Streets, a retired banker and prominent civic leader, is retained.

Weldon Owen publishes *A Free Library in this City*, a history of the San Francisco Public Library by Peter Booth Wiley. The publisher donates the book as a gift to the Library commemorating the years of struggle to build the New Main.

In tents outside the New Main a special Family Day event draws 12,000 parents and children. Local celebrities, including actor Robin Williams, read their favorite children's stories.

Construction of the New Main is complete. It is one of the first major public buildings in the U.S. to incorporate many *green building* features. Special attention goes to indoor air quality and even the carpets use special adhesive materials to minimize indoor pollutants. It is the first building in San Francisco to have talking signs to assist sight-impaired patrons.

April 18, 1996. The new Main Library is ready to open. It is ninety years to the day since the great earthquake destroyed the old City Hall and the Main Library inside.

Thousands crowd Fulton Street between the old Main and the new, wrapping around the Pioneer Monument, and take part in the opening ceremonies. (For details, see Box 3, *New Main Opens*).

Box 3

(Special Sidebar/boxed area)

New Main Opens, April 18, 1996

□ In a clear and soaring voice, Sara Von Davenport, a 14-year-old from Hunters Point, sings a cappella "America the Beautiful." □ An honor guard of construction workers who built the Library march on stage in hard hats and receive an ovation. □ Politicians, corporate executives, philanthropists, librarians and Keepers of the Dream speak to the crowd about the struggle to create the New Main. □ Surrounded by children from the Tenderloin, a storyteller, J. Peter Callendar, dramatically recounts the history of the Library. □ The children sing "Happy Birthday" on the first day of public life for the New Main. □ Beach Blanket Babylon's Val Diamond, wearing a giant hat with the New Main on top, sings "San Francisco." □ The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, conducted by Alasdair Neale, plays Aaron Copeland's "Fanfare for the Common Man." □ A plane circles high overhead and a man jumps out, parasailing onto Civic Center. He rushes to Mayor Brown, Charlotte Swig and others, and hands them a symbolic key. □ Two guards in Beefeater uniforms open the doors of the New Main. □ From inside the Library emerges a procession of characters from the book collections--the Three

Musketeers, Sir Francis Drake, Mark Twain, Cinderella, Snow White, Marie Antoinette, Abraham Lincoln and a hundred others. □ The crowd rushes inside. □ Children hurry up and down stairs, checking out the bridges, books and the Children's Electronic Discovery Center. □ The Affinity Centers are crowded. □ Every computer is in use. Every chair is filled. □ People browse the book stacks and examine the public art. □ Crowds gather in the atrium. Many people are hugging with tears in their eyes. □ With Mig Mayer nearby, Marjorie Stern and Mary Louise Stong approach the counter to check out the first books. But Mrs. Stern has forgotten her Library card. Staff looks up her card number. A dream is realized. □

(End Special Sidebar/boxed area)

The first book checked out? Peter Wiley's "A Free Library in this City."

Fourteen thousand people come through the building on its first day, and the next, and the next. A million visit the building in just over three months. On weekends the doors have to be closed periodically and people asked to wait because the crowds are too large. Staff is overwhelmed but works hard to meet the demand.

The opening is not without problems. The complex seven level building opens with makeshift signs because the sign maker declares bankruptcy just before the opening and never delivers the signage. The book conveyor system that delivers materials to the sorting room can't handle the volume and breaks down.

For an institution long starved for funding and civic attention, there is suddenly abundance on several levels: more public and private money; dramatic increases in new materials, collections and archives; a new online computer system to replace the old card catalog; heavy media attention; and massive crowds. San Franciscans are passionate about their Library, tradition and change and a lively debate rages for months.

(For details, see Box 4, *Debate on the New Main*).

Box 4

(Special Sidebar/boxed area)

Debate on the New Main

The dramatic differences between the old and New Main libraries thrill many but startle others. San Francisco becomes the focus of a national debate on books, technology and the role of libraries in the 21st Century.

Supporters of the New Main say the building is inspiring, a great civic presence that completes the 1917 Civic Center master plan, succeeded against the odds and is now more diverse in its collections and services, better reflecting the populations it serves. Critics of the building say it is too modern, has too

many computers, is too open and does not have enough space for books. A novelist announces that he has come to save the card catalog, claims the weeding of books was "a hate crime against the past" and leads what will become a high profile national crusade. Some demand that librarians never remove anything from the collections. Others argue that collections need to be managed to keep them relevant. The success of the private fundraising, seen as astonishing by many who believed it could never be achieved, is viewed by others as a kind of private takeover of a public service. Supporters say private donors bring opportunities for even greater public service as well as practical necessities such as chairs and tables. Meanwhile, libraries around the country seek to emulate the San Francisco fundraising model.

The New Main Becomes a Major Media Story

□ *"It will grow on us,"* writes the U.S. Poet Laureate about the outside of the building, adding that *"inside...is a marvel, so deeply delicious you forget your previous ideas of what a library is."* *"An ugly modern shopping mall"* fumes a critic of the building in a newspaper article. *"Mall for the Mind"* writes *Newsweek*. *"A Wonderment to Discover"* for people with disabilities writes the *World Institute on Disabilities*. □ *"The curves and twists of stairs around the rotunda are enough to make a person dizzy,"* rages one letter in the *Examiner*. *"A dynamic, light-filled space as inviting as it is joyous"* writes *Art in America*. . □ *"A Trojan horse concealing an invasion force of private interests,"* writes a critic. □ *"Room for Imagination in a Temple of Reason"* headlines the *New York Times* architectural review.

The Mayor calls for a neutral third party audit to study some of the issues and cool tempers. An *Examiner* editorial gives this advice to all sides in this sometime shrill debate: *"Shush!"*

(End Special Sidebar/Boxed area)

Crowds set new service records. For the first year, Main circulation is up 71%, adult programming increases 705% and children's programming increases 224%. By the end of 1996, attendance levels out at 5,500 a day, seven days a week. Tens of thousands more visit the online web site, use Library databases or attend Library-sponsored functions.

Outside of the spotlight, the public expresses itself in different ways. One woman writes in the guest book of the Hormel Center:

"When I... looked at the ceiling mural entitled 'Into the Light,' I started to cry. A city institution actually making a statement that I am important, reaching out to me, saying that my history matters. It is so beautiful and so important."

The New Main holds its first three exhibitions. *Building the Library. San Francisco: The Dimensions of Diversity. San Francisco: The Politics of Inclusion.* All are funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Brooks Walker Patent & Trademark Center becomes one of five California sites designated as a federal patent depository library. It includes complete patents from 1790 to the present.

The Daniel E. Koshland San Francisco History Center contains more than 250,000 photographs dating from 1850. City records and photographs provide detail on thousands of homes and buildings.

A survey by the City Controller on what the public thinks of various government agencies lists the S.F. Public Library as the most respected institution and librarians as the most popular workers.

The Kresge Foundation International Center contains material in 40 languages with emphasis placed on materials in their original languages rather than translations. U.S. citizenship study guides are also available.

Chinatown Branch re-opens, twice as large as before. Lion dancers and hundreds of supporters attend the opening ceremony.

A new budget controversy develops. City Librarian Ken Dowlin, saying he is tired of the constant fighting and feeling that he has met many of his goals including building the New Main, resigns. Kathy Page, Chief of the Main, steps in as temporary City Librarian, the first woman to hold the position.

1997

The *Library Foundation* begins an annual *Library Laureates* dinner in the New Main, honoring leading authors from Northern California. Author Amy Tan and U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass are co-chairs of the inaugural event.

Mission Branch reopens after extensive remodeling.

The *Wallace Stegner Environmental Center* holds a series of public debates on environmental issues, underwritten by the Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund. Actor Robert Redford attends a press conference announcing the program.

Library computers prove so popular with the public that time limits are imposed at peak hours.

Regina Minudri, past President of the American Library Association, is named City Librarian, the first woman to hold the post on a permanent basis. This comes nearly four decades after she first worked at this Library as a page while going to library school.

Brave Little Girls exhibit opens, depicting young women heroines in children's literature. The exhibit will later receive the prestigious John Cotton Dana Award from the American Library Association.

The Library Commission authorizes a Post Occupancy Evaluation of the New Main to analyze ways to make the building more efficient.

The Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation merge into one organization, the *Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library*. Marjorie Stern, Deborah Doyle, Leslie Luttgens and others spend months working out details. The leaders of each organization, Margie O'Driscoll and Chuck Forester, are named co-Executive Directors.

The American Institute of Architects and the American Library Association present the New Main the *Award of Excellence for Library Architecture*.

1998

Mayor Brown proposes funding and building a new Ocean View Branch. The neighborhood strongly supports the project, providing ideas for services and helping raise funds for furniture and equipment.

Through My Father's Eyes: Pioneers of the San Francisco Filipino Community exhibit opens at the New Main. It eventually becomes part of a permanent Smithsonian Institute traveling exhibit.

"*City of Angels*," a movie about angels who live in libraries and look after people, films various sequences in the New Main. It stars Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan.

1999

Over 25,000 historical photographs from the Library collections are digitized and made accessible on the Library's website.

Email reference service begins.

A citywide survey shows 80% of San Franciscans believe that the Library system is clean, safe, has attractive buildings and a friendly and courteous staff.

Library records show 333 organizations and over 12,000 people use meeting rooms in the New Main this year.

2000

City Librarian Minudri steps down for health reasons and Deputy City Librarian Susan Hildreth becomes Acting Director. Hildreth will be named permanent City Librarian in 2001.

Proposition A, a \$106 million bond to build five new branches, upgrade 19 others for earthquake safety, electrical code upgrades, and access for people with disabilities is placed on the ballot after lobbying by the Friends & Foundation. However the amount approved by city officials is \$10 million less than what is estimated as necessary. The ballot measure passes with 74% of the vote.

The new Ocean View Branch opens, replacing a rented facility. It includes a computer-training center, a high priority for the neighborhood.

Friends & Foundation Board member Carlota del Portillo exhorts Library supporters to become "*Keepers of the Dream*" that brought the institution to where it is today, particularly the dreams and promises represented by the Affinity Group campaigns.

2001

New Main to New Millennium: Gifts and Acquisitions 1996-2001 exhibition features new archival and rare materials obtained by the Library since the New Main opened. It is one of ten exhibits at the Main this year.

Nearly five million people visit the San Francisco Public Library system in fiscal year 2000-01, checking out 6.3 million items. Millions more use library reference material or online services. Over 182,000 children attend special programs.

In four years the Library has four Chief Librarians, major increases in public usage, new systems for staff to learn, new ways to work, major controversies in the media and yet the system keeps going, a tribute to the skill and determination of staff.

Dale Carlson, a former Library Commissioner, steps down as President of the Friends and Foundation. He played a major role in numerous ballot measures, fundraising and policy debates. The California Library Association honors him for 13 years of leadership.

2002

Mary Louise Stong, a champion of public libraries for over a half-century, dies.

The Friends & Foundation, under new Executive Director Martin Gomez and Board Chair Deborah Doyle, begin work on \$16 million campaign to supplement the Prop A branch renovation bond because new furniture, fixtures and other needs are not covered by the bond.

The Library acquires a building on 9th Street to relocate the Technical Services Department that performs major book processing, repair and important back office functions now in the New Main.

The Library Commission approves a new branch in Mission Bay. When it opens it will bring to 27 the number of neighborhood branches.

The Main has ten new exhibits this year, drawing 70,000 visitors, including two on civil rights. *Speak Truth to Power* features portraits of people of all ethnicities and nationalities who have spoken up as human rights defenders. *Long Walk to Freedom* is a project of students at George Washington High School focusing on 12 civil rights activists of the 1960s.

One of the founders of the African American Center, Dr. Arthur H. Coleman, dies. A lawyer and Hunters Point physician for over 50 years, he was also a charter member of the Library Foundation. An endowment for the Center is created in his honor.

2003

The new Asian Art Museum opens in the old Main Library.

The Library purchases property for five new City-owned branch libraries, replacing rented facilities. Over the next decade, new branches will be constructed in Mission Bay, Glen Park, Visitacion Valley, Portola and Ingleside and 19 existing branches will be upgraded. Design work for an expanded Richmond Branch is approved.

The Library Commission approves creation of this *Wall of Library Heroes* to capture the history of this institution and honor the many leaders over more than a century who rose from the community and fought for the values of a great public library. Their stories are a legacy that will inspire others.

We acknowledge Peter Booth Wiley and his book A Free Library In This City as a key source of material used in this history. We are grateful for his help.

This project was made possible by a grant from the Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library, 2003

Box 5 (Special Sidebar/Boxed area)

Library Foundation & the Main Campaign, 1987-96

The initial founding members of the Foundation include: Ben Dial, James Edgar (Board President), Leslie Luttgens, Michael Mellor, Caryl and Peter Mezey, Ellen Newman, Martin Paley, Marjorie Stern (Board Founding Chair), Olive Waugh and Ann Witter. As work begins, membership expands to include: Mayor Art Agnos,

Dale Carlson, Hector Chinchilla, Renee and Arthur Coleman, Steve Coulter, Carlota del Portillo, Ken Dowlin, Chuck Forester, Michael Garland, Ellen Huppert and Tatwina Lee.

Campaign co-chairs: Mel and Charlotte Swig
 Honorary co-chairs: Ann G. Getty and John W. Gardner
 Executive Director: Martin Paley

Affinity Group Campaign, 1991-94

Numerous community leaders stepped forward to take part and lead the effort to develop and help fund special collections of significant interest. Donor plaques are located inside the Library. Leadership of the Affinity Campaign includes:

African American Group

Co-chairs: Dr. Arthur Coleman and Renee Dorsey Coleman
Committee: Dr. Rena Merritt Bancroft, Jo-Ann Beverly, Barbra Boston, Kermit Boston, Geri Brown, Marguerite Browne, Diane M. Douchette, Frankie Gillette, Maxwell Gillette, Marion Greene, Barbara Heineback, Burl A. Toler, Doris M. Ward, Ph.D.

Children's Group

Honorary Co-Chairs: Doris Fisher and Charlotte Mailliard Swig
Kid's Day Co-Chairs: Becky Draper, Nancy Field, Katie Hall, Laura Kline, Kathy Nyrop, Millicent Powers and Wally Ward.
Committee: Linda Ach, Andi Arrick, Carla Baird, Ann Baldocchi, Diane Beaudet, Colurney Benoist, Bea Bowles, Nancy Dickson, Betsy Dixon, Mary Edwards, Therica Elliott, Lisa Feldman, Laura Fisher, Elizabeth "Randi" Fisher, Sako Fisher, Viviane Fort-Brescia, Sally Gerstein, Heather Gevertz, Katy Glass, Lisa Goldman, Maureen Halperin, John Handford, Roberta Holdlen, Leslie Hume, Colleen Kieselhorst, Kevin King, Marie Kirk, Sheila Larsen, Dawn Lehmann, Belinda Levensohn, Marilyn MacGregor, Jeannie Mitchell, Elaine Magnin, Lisa Moloney, Ira McEvoy, Betsy Nakamura, Carrie Ohly-Cusak, Caroline Orrick, Julie Parish, Paul Cince Pringle, Lisa Pritzker, Bill Rieser, Mary Ross, Jenny Schweich, Ellie Seddon, Maur Tavernetti, Kat Taylor, Sylvie Wada, Brenda Yee, Margaret Youngblood. Eventually the *Children's Center* will be named in honor of the Don and Doris Fisher family, leading philanthropists and civic leaders.

Chinese American Group

Honorary Co-Chairs: Virginia C. Gee and Tom Hsieh
Co-Chairs: Tatwina Chinn Lee and Rosalyn Koo
Committee: Joan Chin, Anthony Tse, Patricia Chang, Lonnie K. Chin, Vyolet Chu, JoAnn Foo, Yvonne Go, Monique Go, Theresa M. Lee, Dr. Rolland C. Lowe, George Ong, George E. Sycip, Dennis Wong and Robert B. Wong.

Friends of the Chinatown Branch

Co-Chairs: Thomas Ng and Reverend Harry Chuck

Vice Chairs: Helen Chin and Rosalyn Koo

Committee: Dr. Thomas H. Gee, JoAnne Low, Anni Chung, Dennis Wong, Gwendolyn Woo, Norman Yee, Stan Yee and Matilda Young.

Environmental Group

Co-Chairs: Larry Blake and Jerry Tone

Committee: Beth Barker, Arden Bucklin, Virginia Coe, Mike Garland, Chris Desser, Catherine Fox, Annette Gellert, Harold Gilliam, Dian Greueneich, Jennifer Hernandez, Mike Herz, Mary Wallace Houghteling, Lauren Klein, Claire Griffin Lyddon, Wende Williams Micco, Claire Nelson, Will Parish, Beth Skelton, Suzane Schutte, Mary Stegner, Marjorie Stern, Georgiana Stevens, Elissa Van Deursen, Kirby Walker and Susan Watkins. Eventually the *Center* will be named in honor of the late Wallace Stegner, a California author and Pulitzer Prize winner.

Filipino American Group

Chair: Tony Gualberto

Committee: Poly Arzaga, Cip Ayalin, Jun Caba, Billy Camota, Flor Camota, Virgie Gulaberto, Sharon Jones, Cris Kabasares, Ernie Llorente, Severo Lozano, Dennis Normandy, Sofia Prudenciado and Lou Raymundo.

Gay & Lesbian Group

Co-Chairs: Diane Benjamin and Chuck Forester

Committee: The initial organizing and planning committee includes women's publisher Sherry Thomas, civic leaders Alvin H. Baum, Jr., Steve Coulter, Chuck Forester, Gary Gielow, Marya Grams, James C. Hormel, Dorwin Buck Jones, and Robert W. Sass. It later expands to include: Diane Cane, Anne Casscells, Nancy Corporon, Mary Anne Courtney, Mario Diaz, Rosalinda del Moral, Leslie Ewing, Cynthia Gair, Nancy Gonchar, Dewey Green, Roma Guy, James W. Haas, Amma Hawks, Lance Henderson, Lauren Hewitt, Patricia Holt, Mark Leno, Penney Magrane, Robert Oakes, Robert Reinhard, Vince A. Sales, Joseph B. Schubert, Don Spradlin, John Vasconcellos, Steve Vezaris and Jan Zivic. Eventually the *Center* is named in honor of James C. Hormel, a leading philanthropist, civic leader and, a few years later, the first openly gay man in U.S. history to be appointed as a U.S. Ambassador. Thomas and Forester will later become Executive Directors of the Library Foundation.

Latino/Hispanic Group

Co-Chairs: Carlota del Portillo and Fred A. Rodriguez

Committee: Gladys Aquino, Elena Asturias, Honorable Carlos T. Bea, Isabel Campoy, Ricardo D. Carmona, Ray del Portillo, Jaime Diaz, Rosemarie Fernandez-Ruel, Rose Guilbault, Nyla Gemple, Mary Hernandez, Sonia Melara, Gloria Ramos, Kenneth Romines, Manuel Rosales and Veronica Sanchez. The Latino/Hispanic group asks that a community meeting room, a place to bring people together, be named for their community.

(End Special Sidebar/Boxed area)

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DRAFT

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SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Draft Minutes of the regular meeting of Thursday, October 2, 2003

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held its regular meeting on Thursday, October 2, 2003 in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

President Higuera called the meeting to order at 4:01pm.

The following members were noted present: Commissioners Bautista, Coulter, Higuera, Steiman, and Strobin. Commissioner Chin joined the meeting at 4:09PM. Commissioner Streets was reported as excused attendance.

President Higuera announced public comment would be limited to two minutes on each item.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2003 COMMISSION MINUTES

Public comment on APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2003 COMMISSION MINUTES

An anonymous member of the Public commented that points of controversy were not reflected in these minutes; noted that the approved versions of the April and June minutes had been posted on the website; and found their comments on RFID inaccurately reported. Mr. Peter Warfield objected to the reduction in public comment time; found the Strategic Plan discussion lacking in details; and noted that his public comment was inaccurately reported. Additionally Mr. Warfield found the report concerning discussion of RFID's costs/benefits and potential problems lacking.

Commission discussion of APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2003 COMMISSION MINUTES

MOTION: by Commissioner Chin, seconded by Commissioner Steiman for approval of the June 5, 2003 Minutes.

ACTION: 6-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Higuera, Steiman, and Strobin)

AGENDA ITEM #2 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

City Librarian Susan Hildreth noted two items in her report that came to her attention after the agenda was posted concerning the Portola Purchase and sale agreement going before the Board of Supervisors for approval and regarding selection of the Clean City Coalition as the community based organization to operate the Tool Lending Center. Ms Hildreth then presented a report (copy attached) consisting of a Glen Park Branch update; a QOED Forum Live report; a report on the landmarking of the Sunset and Presidio Branches; and concerning several recent and upcoming exhibits and programs.

Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Charles A. Higuera, A.L.A.
President

Carol Steiman
Vice President

Helen Marte Bautista
Lonnie K. Chin
Steven A. Coulter
Fran A. Streets
Deborah Strobin
Commissioners

Susan Hildreth
City Librarian

Michael Housh
Commission Secretary



Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #2 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

An anonymous member of the public noted that there had been no litigation update or reports on the North Beach or Visitation Valley Branches; expressed alarm that the Tool Lending Center would begin operating again without public input and extensive discussion of issues and potential budget implications. Mr. Peter Warfield expressed concern that there had not been a more detailed discussion of the old and new Tool Lending Center operating agreements and urged the Library Commissioners to look into the details of what was proposed before going forward.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #2 CITY LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

In response to questions by President Higuera, the City Librarian and Library Finance Director George Nichols outlined in further detail steps that had been taken to strengthen the Library's oversight and the reporting requirements agreed to by the Clean City Coalition as conditions of their assuming management of the Tool Lending Center. Ms. Hildreth noted that the Tool Lending Center was a very popular program. President Higuera emphasized that with this new agreement care must be taken to minimize any risk to the Library, noting that the previous community partner's failure could reflect poorly on the Library. President Higuera requested a more detailed report on the Tool Lending Center contract. In answer to questions concerning the tool inventory and the need for additional outlay for tools, Mr. Nichols informed Commissioner Bautista that there seem to have been little loss of inventory during the transition and that there would be no need for any large outlay for new tools beyond that that would occur in the course of the Center's being in operation. Mr. Nichols then reminded the Commission of the budget history of the Tool Center and noted that there were ongoing discussions with the Mayor's Budget Office concerning the Library's \$175,000 annual budget allocation for the Tool Center. Vice President Steiman called attention to a Collection Development Workshop being held by a task force of the Council for Neighborhood Libraries from 4 to 6:30pm on October 8th in the Main Library's Latino-Hispanic Room.

AGENDA ITEM #3 SUMMER READING REPORT

Library Children and Youth Services Coordinator Toni Bernardi presented a detailed report on the significant success of the Library's 2003 Summer Reading Program.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #3 SUMMER READING REPORT

None offered.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #3 SUMMER READING REPORT

Commissioner Bautista saluted the KidPower program and commended Ms. Bernardi and her staff for their hard work on behalf of children and youth. Commissioner Chin joined in commending the success of this year's Summer Reading Program noting that it was a critical tool in helping children and teens go on to future achievements. President Higuera noted that the Summer Reading Program inspired a life long love of reading and commended efforts to involve teens in providing input into how programs geared to them were done.

AGENDA #4 AFFINITY CENTERS REPORT

Chief of the Main Library Kathy Lawhun introduced City Archivist and San Francisco History Center Director Susan Goldstein and Jim Van Buskirk, Hormel Gay and Lesbian Center Librarian for presentations on recent Center programs and activities. Ms. Goldstein outlined in extensive detail the Koshland San Francisco History Center's very active year of collaborative efforts with branch libraries, City Departments, and community programs. She then reported on recent exhibitions, gifts and donations and the ever increasing use of the Center's historical photograph collections. Mr. Van Buskirk then presented a similarly detailed overview of the Hormel Center's wide array of programs, exhibitions, and collaborative work with the History Center and community organizations. Mr. Van Buskirk called particular attention to a project "reversing vandalism" where artists had been invited to submit works reclaiming library books that had been vandalized.

Public comment on AGENDA #4 AFFINITY CENTERS REPORT

An anonymous member of the public commented that these exciting presentations confirmed their view that nothing holds interest like the Library's central role in preserving history. This person additionally noted that the proper name Koshland San Francisco History Center was not noted whereas the Hormel Center's full name had been. This individual found the report of the "Reversing Vandalism" project was fascinating because of the subtleties and ironies involved in artists who frequently break convention responding to vandalism. Mr. Doug Loranger commended the resources available through the San Francisco History Center noting he had made use of its collections in his own research. Mr. Peter Warfield lauded the presentations featuring materials in the library's collections noting that these collections contained materials not available elsewhere, and commented that he had used both of these collections which he termed valuable.

Commission discussion of AGENDA #4 AFFINITY CENTERS REPORT

Commissioner Coulter commended both reports and expressed support for efforts to bring all of the library affinity centers to the high standard of program and community engagement exhibited by the Gay and Lesbian and San Francisco History Affinity Centers. Commissioner Coulter noted the wonderful additions to both collections and cited the outstanding example of the New York Public Library's Schaumburg Center as perhaps a model for the future development. In response to questions by President Higuera, Ms. Goldstein discussed the ongoing program to digitize photographs in the collection. Responding to a query by Commissioner Bautista, Ms. Goldstein confirmed that photo credit and fees were required for images requested from the History Center's collection. In response to comments by Commissioner Chin calling attention to her school, Spring Valley, California's oldest continuing public school, Ms. Goldstein discussed the ongoing work in organizing and cataloging historic San Francisco Unified School District records transferred to the Library several years ago. President Higuera thanked the Affinity Center staff for their hard work and informative presentations.

Please note: These are draft Minutes subject to change by the Library Commission. Copies of Commission Minutes and handouts are available in the Office of the Commission Secretary, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

AGENDA #5 LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

The City Librarian noted that the revised draft 2003-06 Strategic Plan had been submitted to the Mayor's Office as required by the Performance and Review Ordinance of 1999 on October 1 with a notation that final Library Commission approval was scheduled for this meeting. Ms. Hildreth then outlined in some detail each of the changes made since the previous draft, calling particular attention to the establishment of a collection management committee and further addressing concerns raised with the proposed implementation of RFID technology. Ms. Hildreth proposed a public program be held to fully air and address concerns raised by the RFID technology in association with the California Library Association and civil liberties organizations. Ms. Hildreth then addressed other minor changes in wording and the numbering sequence of some sections.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #5 LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

An anonymous member of the public suggested that not all of the changes in the proposed draft were noted calling attention to items this person believe were not called out and commented that they were concerned that additions had been made without noting a change. Mr. Doug Loranger, SNAFU, commented about concerns with use of RFID technology including radiation risk not discussed and called attention to the Board of Supervisors adoption of a "precautionary principle" requiring all City Departments to consider public health and liability issues , as well as expressed his view that wireless communication was not secure. Ms. Debra Pierce commented that privacy activists were very concerned with use of this new technology and suggested its implications were not fully studied, calling attention to the controversies surrounding it commercial uses. Mr. Peter Warfield commented that the proposed plan was a disaster for books finding insufficient specificity regarding books, nothing on catalog improvements, and decried efforts to move forward on RFID.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #5 LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN

Commissioner Coulter noted and expressed appreciation for the modifications made from the previous drafts citing in particular the improved language concerning the affinity centers and the addition of Section 16.2 Commission review and approval after public hearings. Commissioner Coulter noted the importance of encouraging a community dialogue and addressing privacy concerns. President Higuera and Vice President Steiman found the proposed changes improvements. Commissioner Chin discussed and called attention to the ongoing controversy and public debate concerning possible dangers of radiation and the lack of scientific evidence addressing its risks. Commissioner Chin urged that the Library be involved in public forums to address any unknown hazards and sort out differing standards so that how and where these technologies would be implemented could be fully discussed. The City Librarian and Deputy City Librarian responded with a discussion of how wireless technology was being widely used in libraries, noting that the tags were very useful for many library purposes, reduced risk from repetitive stress injuries to staff, and as they were readable only at very short range. In answer to comments and questions by Vice President Steiman, Mr. Underwood emphasized the security features of the library's separate

network and noted that it would be impossible for the Library to respond to the growing public demand for access to materials without use of wireless technologies.

MOTION: by Vice President Steiman, seconded by Commissioner Chin to approve the proposed 2003-06 Strategic Plan as revised.

ACTION: 5-0 AYE (Bautista, Chin Coulter, Higuera, and Steiman)

President Higuera announced that the agenda items related that the proposed 2004 Commission Meetings Schedule, the Friends Report, and the Union report would be continued to a future meeting and called for the BALIS Update report to be heard next in view of the limited time remaining before the quorum would be lost.

AGENDA #7 BALIS UPDATE REPORT

Ms. Deborah Doyle, San Francisco BALIS representative, presented a n extensive update report on ongoing 15-member Bay Area Library and Information Systems Advisory Committee activities, (copy attached).

Public comment on AGENDA #7 BALIS UPDATE REPORT

None offered.

Commission discussion of AGENDA #7 BALIS UPDATE REPORT

In response to questions by President Higuera, Ms. Doyle outlined the impact of the state budget reductions on planned integration of services and shared access to resources by Bay Area libraries through the Golden Gateway Library Network, reporting that while there was not sufficient funding available to go forward now that an organization for future cooperation and resource sharing had been created and that systems were already working together each using its separate funding.

AGENDA #8 LIBRARY HISTORY PLAQUES

Public comment on AGENDA #8 LIBRARY HISTORY PLAQUES

An anonymous member of the public commented that this person perceived there to be a double message in Commissioner Coulter's call for public comment on the proposed Library History plaques.

Commission discussion of AGENDA #8 LIBRARY HISTORY PLAQUES

President Higuera noted that there would be additional opportunities for public comment on the proposed Library History Plaques offered at the October 16, and November 6th meeting.

AGENDA #11 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous member of the public questioned the accuracy of the announced loss of the meeting's quorum and commented that the adoption of the Strategic Plan seemed to create a situation where what was included in Library's collections could be determined by popularity and thus ignoring the library profession's standards for building collections. Mr. Peter Warfield expressed disappointment with the Library Commission's approval of the 2003-06 Strategic Plan.

AGENDA ITEM #13 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Commissioner Bautista, seconded by Commissioner Coulter that the meeting be adjourned.

ACTION: AYE 5-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Higuera, and Steiman)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:06 pm

Michael Housh, Commission Secretary 10/24/03

Please note: These are draft Minutes subject to change by the Library Commission. Copies of Commission Minutes and handouts are available in the Office of the Commission Secretary, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of October 2, 2003

The Public Comment Summary Statements included in these Minutes are authorized by San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.16..

These summary statements are provided by the speaker. Their contents are neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by, the San Francisco Public Library Commission.

The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of October 2, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of October 2, 2003

The Public Comment Summary Statements included in these Minutes are authorized by San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.16..

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, October 2, 2003

Item 1:

Approval of the Minutes: September 4, 2003

“One of the things I look for in the minutes is whether controversial points have been acknowledged. Mr. Gomez (of the Foundation) said that he wanted the gift recognition policy passed so that they would be able know what they were selling. There is no mention of that comment.

The April and June minutes on the website are now final versions.

With respect to the discussion of the strategic plan, Ms. Hildreth announced at this meeting that the strategy plan had a deadline of October 1st, and there is no mention of Ms. Hildreth's comment.

With respect to the discussion of RFID, the minutes state that the anonymous citizen said the priority was inverse to its cost and history was the last priority. What was said was that the priority was the reverse of its cost effectiveness.”

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of October 2, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of October 2, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, October 2, 2003

Item 2:

City Librarian's Report

“There is no litigation report. Also, there is no report on North Beach or Visitacion Valley. No doubt you will hear about those controversies when they are over.

The developments with respect to the Tool Lending Center are alarming. Am I to understand that the Tool Lending Center will go forward on this basis?

Several months were spent discussing the issues in the old agreement. We now find that agreement has collapsed without warning. There are a number of issues regarding your liabilities, long-term effectiveness, budget implications need to be addressed very seriously.

I dare say that one of the things that we have learned with respect to the tool lending center and the on-going controversies that devolve from it, gives us a very clear lesson that we do need to re-examine the issue and hear from the public again on it.”

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of October 2, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of October 2, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, October 2, 2003

Item 4:

Affinity Centers Update Report

“This was an exciting report and it reaffirms a common theme of mine that nothing holds our interest as much as the vital historical role of this institution. Current controversies become numb to us, but we perk up our ears when history is discussed.

I want to point out that the agenda correctly refers to the Hormel Center, but the history center is not referenced with the same specificity as the Koshland History Center. I wonder if there is a distinction there.

I want to address this fascinating program called “Reversing Vandalism” which is fascinating both because of the idea of reversing that energy but also because of the intense subtleties and ironies that one can read into the issue. What is reversing vandalism, especially since artists have been those who break the conventions of the past.”

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of October 2, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of October 2, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, October 2, 2003

Item 5:

Library Strategic Plan 2003/06

“This draft says that revisions from the 7/29 draft are in bold and Italics. We are on notice from Commissioner Steiman that the library administration feels no compunction to actually do that.

So I compared this draft to the 7/29 draft and sure enough. Let me point out a few examples.

On the introduction, in the 7/29 draft that was not the first paragraph. On page 7, in the middle paragraph, the phrase Friends of the Library replaces citizen’s efforts, but there is no indication.

The more interesting question is whether there are actually additions that are not noted. On page five, the in the phrase, protect privacy of all library user records, the word protect is new at the request of Commissioner Steiman, ironically enough.

With respect to 3.1.1, the phrase beginning, while also maintaining, is new but not noted as such.”

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of October 2, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of October 2, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, October 2, 2003

Item 8:

Library History Plaques

“Mr. Coulter gives another valuable lesson in what’s called in psychology, the double message. This commission has always used the double message. The perfect example is, we solicit public comment and value public comment, but everyone who makes public comment is full of ‘le mot de coulter’ and should get a life.

I knew of a very alarming situation where a father taught his son to a kleptomaniac. He would say, ‘don’t you dare steal’ and then when they came out of the store he would say, ‘what did you steal for daddy?’

We now know that the double message is a very damaging thing. When Mr. Coulter says that he makes a sincere effort to solicit comments, but then says that we just want to sit back and laugh, that is another double message isn’t it?”

Minutes of the regular Commission Meeting of October 2, 2003

Appendix A

Library Commission meeting of October 2, 2003

The Public Comment Summary Statements included in these Minutes are authorized by San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.16..

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, October 2, 2003

Item 12:

Public Comment

“I guess I have lived too long. We find out that we will lose a quorum at 6:00 p.m., but we don’t learn this until 5:48. Then at 5:57, we find out that it is not true after all. I am skeptical, of course. You can always say that it is a sad reflection on my character. That should work one more time.

One of the virtues of passing this without a full chance for public comment is that no one has brought to your attention what will be seen as an attack on the profession of librarianship under 9.4. There it says you are going to enhance and maintain collections of interest to significant segments of the community. This means that you are opening up your collections to a popularity contest and throwing out the justification for having professional librarians who building collections without that popularization pressure.”

City Librarian Report – 10/2/03

Property acquisition for Portola Branch from San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) was heard at the Board of Supervisors Finance Committee on 10/1/03 and recommended unanimously to the full Board for approval. Joint-use agreements for four branches with several public schools were approved on 9/23/03 by the SFUSD Board and will be introduced to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Tool Lending Center – Through an RFP process, the Library has selected the San Francisco Clean City Coalition to operate the Tool Lending Center on behalf of the Library. A three-year grant agreement is being negotiated; and we hope to re-open the Tool Lending Center in November.

Glen Park Branch – The purchase and sale agreement for the new Glen Park Branch in the Glen Park Marketplace was approved by the Board of Supervisors. The current branch is closed during the week of September 29th to facilitate the installation of an ergonomically correct service desk.

KQED Forum Live – Will be held live on October 15th at the Koret Auditorium discussing issues in the SF Mayor's race.

Sunset and Presidio Branches – Nominated for landmark status by the Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board as the most significant renovation work has been completed.

Exhibitions - 3rd Annual Deaf Visual & Performing Artists Art Show, October 1-31, 1st floor; Closer than Ever: 25 Years with the Gay Men's Chorus, 10/03 – 1/04, 4th floor.

Programs – Laboring for Coverage – 10/9; District Attorney forum – 10/14; 14th Annual Poetry Recital – 10/15, Bayview Branch; USA Patriot Act Panel Discussion – 10/21, co-sponsored by Japanese American Citizens League and Organization of Chinese Americans, Bay Area chapter; Youth Expressions, "Who are Youth? Exploring Individuality of Youth and the Labels Put on Them" – 10/22 with 3 other programs to follow in the Bay Area.

Bay Area Library and Information System (BALIS)
System Advisory Board (SAB) Report
Thursday, October 2, 2003

To: San Francisco Public Library Commission
From: Deborah Doyle, BALIS SAB Representative
Re: Bay Area Library & Information System (BALIS)
System Advisory Board (SAB) Report
May 2002 – September 2003

I BACKGROUND

A. What is BALIS?

BALIS is an organization of public libraries created to enhance local library and information services through cooperative resource sharing. It is one of fifteen such cooperatives in California that help their members share the resources to better serve library users. The BALIS service area covers three counties: Alameda, Contra Costa and San Francisco, with a combined population of approximately three million. The member libraries of BALIS include: Alameda Free Library, Alameda County Library, Berkeley Public Library, Contra Costa County Library, Hayward Public Library, Livermore Public Library, Oakland Public Library, Pleasanton Public Library and the San Francisco Public Library.

BALIS is a public entity established under authority of the California Library Services Act (CLSA). It is governed by an Administrative Council made up of the nine member library directors.

BALIS helps coordinate an interlibrary loan (ILL) network by which members can share books and materials, greatly expanding the resources available to local library users. BALIS also provides delivery for materials exchanged through the ILL network.

Its Reference Center provides reference services to libraries, as well as directories, location tools and reference sources for member libraries.

BALIS offers continuing education and staff development activities for library staff.

BALIS is the vehicle for member libraries to identify and address issues of common concern.

BALIS seeks funds and coordinates collaborative processes that maintain each member library's ability to design programs that best serve local needs. Examples of successful projects include long-range planning for member libraries, internet-search training for library personnel, youth-at-risk service planning for member libraries, purchasing services for ethnic materials collection development. BALIS libraries are currently involved in an Automated Catalog Linking project.

Bay Area Library and Information System (BALIS)
System Advisory Board (SAB) Report
Thursday, October 2, 2003

BALIS has four committees and four forums, composed of representatives from the member libraries. The standing committees are Children's Services, Public Information, Reference, and Staff Development. The forums meet quarterly to discuss issues relating to Collection Development, Interlibrary Loan, Senior Services, and Teen Services.

In July 1996, BALIS, Peninsula Library System (PLS) and Silicon Valley Library System (SVLS) entered into an agreement to share administrative and reference staff. The administrative office is located in San Mateo while the main Reference Center is in San Jose, with a branch in San Francisco.

State, federal and local sources provide funding for BALIS operations. In addition, federal agencies and the private sector often provide special program and planning grants.

B. What is the SAB?

Each CLSA Cooperative Library System has an Advisory Board. Its board members are appointed by each member jurisdiction within the System and represent public users within the System service area. A System Advisory Board does not administer the programs of the Act; rather its role is to advise. The intent of this program is to encourage citizen participation in the development of CLSA programs; it offers an opportunity for lay SAB members to give advice and assistance to the System Administrative Council.

II. SAB PURPOSE & DUTIES

A. Purpose: The SAB assists the Administrative Council in developing the system annual plan of service; advises the Council on the need for services and programs; and assists in evaluating the system's services.

B. Duties: The duties of the System Advisory Board may include but are not limited to:

1. Assisting the Administrative Council in developing the system plan of service.
2. Advising the Administrative Council on the needs for services and programs.
3. Assisting in the evaluation of services provided by the system.
4. Establishing and maintaining communication with the BALIS Administrative Council.

C. System Plan of Service

1. BALIS SAB 2003-04 (Attachment 1)
2. BALIS SAB 2002-03 (Attachment 2)

III. SAB MEMBERS

A. Appointment Process

1. The governing body of the member jurisdiction makes appointment (in SF, the Board of Supervisors).
2. The appointing jurisdiction shall ensure that appointment represents the public at large and of the underserved residents in the system service area.
3. The term of an appointment is two years; a member may serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Bay Area Library and Information System (BALIS)
System Advisory Board (SAB) Report
Thursday, October 2, 2003

- B. Composition: Of the current membership, four serve as Commissioners or Trustees, two serve on the board of a library support organization and one is a civil servant who is enrolled in an MLS program.

Alameda City: Marc Lambert
Alameda County: Eddie Jo Mack, Chair
Berkeley: (Position vacant)
Contra Costa: Betty Weibert
Hayward: Dr. Ilene Rockman
Livermore: Dan Swinbank
Oakland: Victoria Kelly
Pleasanton: Joan Leighty
San Francisco: Deborah Doyle (past Chair)

IV MEETINGS

- A. Legal Requirement: Minimum of four times a year
B. General Practice: Bi-monthly, one of which is a joint meeting with the BALIS Administrative Council.

V. ACTIVITIES

A. WORKSHOPS

The SAB, with the SABs of the Peninsula Valley System and Silicon Valley Library System, hosted a workshop for library support groups at the SFPL on March 1, 2003, with a keynote speech by Marilyn Snider. Discussion topics included: fundraising, book sales/sales on-line, and relationships between Friends groups and Foundations.

The SABs are planning another joint workshop in the spring of 2004. Suggested topic: local advocacy efforts.

B. JOINT MEETINGS

The 2003 joint meeting of the SAB and Administrative Council featured Martin Paley as a speaker. The joint meeting for 2004 is in the planning stages.

C. EVALUATION & PLANNING

The SAB reviewed the BALIS plan of service. It also evaluated its own activities and sets objectives for 2003-04.

D. OTHER ACTIVITIES

SAB members also attended Administrative Council meetings, the annual CLA convention, workshops given by CALTAC or other library-related organizations, Legislative Day in the District and Legislative Day in Sacramento.

CALIFORNIA LIBRARY SERVICES ACT
System Plan of Service, FY 2003/2004
System Advisory Board Program

1. System Name

Bay Area Library & Information System

2. Objectives

The System Advisory Board advises the Administrative Council and staff about system programs and acts as a communications channel for the local library.

A. Meetings

1. An orientation will be held in September for new and continuing members.
2. One or more Administrative Council members will attend each SAB meeting.
3. At least 50% of the SAB members will attend workshops appropriate to serving as a Board member.
4. All SAB members will have the opportunity to attend local BALIS workshops.
5. SAB members will receive all Administrative Council agendas and may attend.

B. Meeting Content

1. Provide opportunities for ongoing self-education through topical meetings, including:
 - a. Friends and foundation activities
 - b. State legislative initiatives and legislation
2. Include time for SAB members to ask questions and/or exchange information about system services.
3. Schedule a dinner with the Administrative Council with a speaker on a current library issue.
4. The SAB will work with the PLS to develop a workshop focussed on fund raising for friends' groups and foundations.

C. Legislative Activities

1. Consider methods for building links with local, state, and federal legislators in order to raise awareness of library issues both local and statewide.
2. Attend CLA Legislative Day and/or Day in the District.

D. Planning and Evaluation

1. Participate in planning and evaluation of SAB objectives for FY 2003/04.
2. Evaluate activities for the year and make recommendations as appropriate.
3. Review the system annual Plan of Service and make recommendations to the Administrative Council.

3. Inventory of Available Resources

- A. Orientations and presentations on system programs at SAB meetings
- B. System Advisory Board manual
- C. Access to meeting rooms
- D. Secretarial services
- E. BALIS Administrative Council agenda and minutes
- F. CLA Newsletter
- G. State Library Newsletter
- H. Friends and Foundations of California Libraries Newsletter
- I. CALTAC Newsletter
- J. CALTAC Workshops
- K. Administrative Council's expertise in working with citizen boards
- L. The experience of SAB members who have served as friends of libraries, members of library boards, and participants in other community activities

4. Plan of Action

Time	Activity
Ongoing	System Administration staff sends copies of newsletters, memos, Council minutes and agendas, workshop announcements, and other information to SAB members
August	System Director and staff update orientation materials as necessary
September	Elect Chair SAB orientation program and review session
November	Regular SAB meeting CLA Conference
February	Regular SAB meeting

March	Develop SAB Plan of Service Workshop for other SABs' commissions and friends groups
May	Review and approve Plan of Service for next fiscal year Conduct self-evaluation for concluding fiscal year Appoint Nominating Committee
Spring	Joint annual dinner with the Administrative Council

5. **User Benefits Expected**

- A. Citizens' advice to BALIS Administrative Council on current and future programs.
- B. Improved communication to and from local libraries and library user community.
- C. Increased awareness of library issues and library needs in general, and BALIS issues and needs specifically.

6. **Evaluation**

Objectives are evaluated by keeping records of attendance at SAB and other meetings and by reviewing the agenda and minutes of SAB meetings. The SAB also conducts a self-evaluation at its last meeting of the fiscal year by discussing their activities, the impact of these activities, and their feelings about serving on the System Advisory Board.

7. **Related Non-CLSA Activities**

The SAB is kept informed of the System's activities which are not part of CLSA and is asked for input regarding these programs.

C. Legislative Activities

1. Consider methods for building links with local, state, and federal legislators in order to raise awareness of library issues both local and statewide.
2. Serve as a public relations representative for local libraries.
3. Attend CLA Legislative Day or contact representatives at home office.

D. Planning and Evaluation

1. Participate in planning and evaluation of SAB objectives for FY 2002/03.
2. Evaluate activities for the year and make recommendations as appropriate.
3. Review the system annual Plan of Service and make recommendations to the Administrative Council.

3. Inventory of Available Resources

- A. Orientations and presentations on system programs at SAB meetings
- B. System Advisory Board manual
- C. Access to meeting rooms
- D. Secretarial services
- E. BALIS Administrative Council agenda and minutes
- F. CLA Newsletter
- G. State Library Newsletter
- H. Friends and Foundations of California Libraries Newsletter
- I. CALTAC Newsletter
- J. CALTAC Workshops
- K. Administrative Council's expertise in working with citizen boards
- L. The experience of SAB members who have served as friends of libraries, members of library boards, and participants in other community activities
- M. Mailings from other systems (PLS and SVLS)

4. Plan of Action

Time	Activity
Ongoing	System Administration staff sends copies of newsletters, memos, Council minutes and agendas, workshop announcements, and other information to SAB members.
August	System Director and staff update orientation materials as necessary.
September	SAB orientation program and review session

November	Regular SAB meeting CLA Conference
January	Regular SAB meeting
March	Joint SAB meeting with PLS and SVLS Develop SAB Plan of Service
May	Review and approve Plan of Service for next fiscal year. Conduct self-evaluation for concluding fiscal year. Elect new Chair.
Spring	Joint annual dinner with the Administrative Council and/or with PLS/SVLS SABs. Appoint Nominating Committee.

5. User Benefits Expected

- A. Citizens' advice to BALIS Administrative Council on current and future programs.
- B. Improved communication to and from local libraries and library user community.
- C. Increased awareness of library issues and library needs in general, and BALIS issues and needs specifically.

6. Evaluation

Objectives are evaluated by keeping records of attendance at SAB and other meetings and by reviewing the agenda and minutes of SAB meetings. The SAB also conducts a self-evaluation at its last meeting of the fiscal year by discussing their activities, the impact of these activities, and their feelings about serving on the System Advisory Board.

7. Related Non-CLSA Activities

The SAB is kept informed of the System's activities which are not part of CLSA and is asked for input regarding these programs.

ESTIMATED WORKLOAD

System Advisory Board Program, FY 2002/03

- a. Number of members on Advisory Board. 8
- b. Number of Advisory Board meetings to be held. 6
- c. Estimated number of System meetings/events which SAB members will attend. 6
- d. Estimated number of miles to be traveled annually, all members. 1,000
- e. Estimated number of overnight stays required, all members. 0

OCT 10 2003

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

San Francisco Public Library Commission

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4733

Phone 415.557.4233, Fax 415.557.4240

≡ NOTICE OF MEETING

A regular meeting of the San Francisco Public Library Commission will be held as follows:

DATE: Thursday, October 16, 2003
 TIME: 4:00 PM
 PLACE: Koret Auditorium, Main Library, lower level

The meeting will be called to order.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES ACTION

Presentation of, discussion of, and possible action to approve the Minutes of the regular Commission meeting of September 18, 2003.
 Explanatory document: draft Minutes

2. BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT DISCUSSION

(This is a discussion item to allow the Branch Library Bond Program Manager to report on recent bond program related activities and make announcements.)

This report will consist of *an informational presentation*: none; *regular reports*: program budget and schedule; active projects; community outreach; and *special reports*: none.

Explanatory documents: current Budget Report and Branch Library Summary Schedules

3. COMMISSION MEETINGS SCHEDULE ACTION

Presentation of, discussion of, and possible action to approve a schedule of dates for the regular Commission Meetings for 2004.

Explanatory document: draft 2004 meetings schedule

4. LIBRARY HISTORY PLAQUES DISCUSSION

Presentation of and discussion of a series of plaques chronicling the history of the San Francisco Public Library from its beginnings until the present and honoring those who made significant contributions to be located in the Larkin Street entrance of the Main Library.

Explanatory Document: Revised Wall of Library Heroes memo

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

(This item is to allow members of the public to comment generally on matters within the Commission's purview as well as to suggest new agenda items for the Library Commission's consideration.)

6. ADJOURNMENT (requires motion and public comment) ACTION

Explanatory documents: Copies of explanatory documents listed in this agenda, and other related materials received by the Library Commission after the posting of this agenda, can be obtained from the Office of the Library Commission, Main Library, 6th Floor and also, to the extent possible, will be available on the Library's website at <http://sfppl.org/>.

F
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11
0/16/03

Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Charles A. Higuera, A.L.A.
President

Carol Steinman
Vice President

Helen Marte Bautista
Lonnice K. Chin
Steven A. Coulter
Fran A. Streets
Deborah Strobin
Commissioners

Susan Hildreth
City Librarian

Michael Housh
Commission Secretary



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION - ACCESSIBLE MEETINGS POLICY

TO ENSURE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DISABLED PUBLIC IN ALL COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETINGS, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS CONCERNING ACCESSIBILITY WILL BE AVAILABLE:

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS OR NOTE TAKERS WILL BE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. PLEASE CONTACT SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED AT 415/557-4433 (TDD) OR 415/557-4434 (VOICE) AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. LATE REQUESTS WILL BE HONORED IF POSSIBLE.

A SOUND ENHANCEMENT SYSTEM WILL BE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST AT THE MEETINGS. PLEASE CONTACT SERVICES FOR THE DEAF AND HEARING IMPAIRED AT 415/557-4433 (TDD) OR 415/557-4434 (VOICE) AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE MEETING. LATE REQUESTS WILL BE HONORED IF POSSIBLE.

A PERSON WHO IS DEAF OR HEARING IMPAIRED MAY GAIN MEETING INFORMATION PRIOR TO THE MEETING BY CALLING 415/557-4433 (TDD) OR 415/557-4434 (VOICE). IN ADDITION, THE CALIFORNIA RELAY SERVICE CAN BE USED BY INDIVIDUALS WITH HEARING AND SPEECH IMPAIRMENTS BY CALLING 1-800/735-2929 (TDD) OR 1-800/735-2992 (VOICE).

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMATS. IF YOU REQUIRE THE USE OF A READER DURING THE MEETING, PLEASE CONTACT THE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND AND PRINT HANDICAPPED AT 415/557-4253 AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE NEED.

INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE ALLERGIES, ENVIRONMENTAL ILLNESS, MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY OR RELATED DISABILITIES SHOULD CALL THE ACCESSIBILITY HOTLINE AT 415/554-8925 TO DISCUSS MEETING ACCESSIBILITY. IN ORDER TO ASSIST SAN FRANCISCO'S EFFORTS TO ACCOMMODATE SUCH PEOPLE, ATTENDEES AT PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE REMINDED THAT OTHER ATTENDEES MAY BE SENSITIVE TO VARIOUS CHEMICAL-BASED PRODUCTS. PLEASE HELP THE CITY TO ACCOMMODATE THESE INDIVIDUALS.

LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT THE MAIN LIBRARY, 100 LARKIN STREET AT GROVE, LOWER LEVEL, KORET AUDITORIUM, EXCEPT WHEN OTHERWISE NOTICED. THE COMMISSION MEETING ROOM IS WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE. THE CLOSEST ACCESSIBLE BART STATION IS CIVIC CENTER. THE ACCESSIBLE MUNI LINE SERVING THIS LOCATION IS THE #19 POLK. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT MUNI'S ACCESSIBLE SERVICE, PLEASE CALL 415/923-6142.

THERE IS ACCESSIBLE PARKING AVAILABLE AT 355 McALLISTER, CIVIC CENTER PLAZA GARAGE. CALL 415/863-1537.

ACCESSIBLE SEATING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (INCLUDING THOSE USING WHEELCHAIRS) WILL BE AVAILABLE AT MEETINGS.

THE RINGING OF AND USE OF CELL PHONES, PAGERS AND SIMILAR SOUND-PRODUCING ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE PROHIBITED AT THIS MEETING. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE CHAIR MAY ORDER THE REMOVAL FROM THE MEETING ROOM OF ANY PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RINGING OR USE OF A CELL PHONE, PAGER, OR OTHER SIMILAR SOUND PRODUCING ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE

GOVERNMENT'S DUTY IS TO SERVE THE PUBLIC, REACHING ITS DECISIONS IN FULL VIEW OF THE PUBLIC. COMMISSIONS, BOARDS, COUNCILS AND OTHER AGENCIES OF THE CITY AND COUNTY EXIST TO CONDUCT THE PEOPLE'S BUSINESS. THIS ORDINANCE ASSURES THAT DELIBERATIONS ARE CONDUCTED BEFORE THE PEOPLE AND THAT CITY OPERATIONS ARE OPEN TO THE PEOPLE'S REVIEW.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON YOUR RIGHTS UNDER THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE (CHAPTER 67 OF THE SAN FRANCISCO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE) OR TO REPORT A VIOLATION OF THE ORDINANCE, CONTACT DONNA HALL, ADMINISTRATOR, THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE TASK FORCE, CITY HALL, ROOM 409 1 DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT PLACE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-4689 OR AT 415/554-7724 PH. 415/554-5163 FAX AND WEBSITE AT [DONNA_HALL@sfgov.org](mailto:Donna_Hall@sfgov.org). COPIES OF THE SUNSHINE ORDINANCE CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CLERK OF THE SUNSHINE TASK FORCE, THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.SFGOV.ORG/SUNSHINE

SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE

ATTENTION: INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES THAT INFLUENCE OR ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE LOCAL LEGISLATIVE OR ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE SAN FRANCISCO LOBBYIST ORDINANCE (SF CAMPAIGN & GOVERNMENTAL CONDUCT CODE SEC. 2.100) TO REGISTER AND REPORT LOBBYING ACTIVITY. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOBBYIST ORDINANCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE ETHICS COMMISSION AT 30 VAN NESS AVENUE, SUITE 3900, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102, TELEPHONE (415) 581-2300, FAX (415) 581-2317 AND WEB SITE: SFGOV.ORG/ETHICS.

MICHAEL HOUSH, COMMISSION SECRETARY

9/11/03

DRAFT

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

NOV 19 2003

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY



San Francisco Public Library Commission

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-4733

Phone 415.557.4233, Fax 415.557.4240

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

Draft Minutes of the regular meeting of Thursday, October 16, 2003.

The San Francisco Public Library Commission held a regular meeting on Thursday, October 16, 2003 in the Koret Auditorium, Main Library.

President Higuera called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

The following members were noted present: Commissioners Bautista, Coulter, Higuera, Steiman, and Strobin. Commissioner Chin's arrival was expected to be delayed. Commissioner Streets was excused.

Commissioner Chin joined the meeting at 4:12PM

AGENDA ITEM #1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE September 18, 2003 COMMISSION MEETING

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE September 18, 2003 COMMISSION MEETING

An anonymous member of the public commented that some of this person's remarks related to the Bond Program Manager's Report, the Gift Recognition Policy, and the discussion of the History Plaques were either not reported or reflected inaccurately. Mr. Peter Warfield found a number of omissions in the reported minutes citing comments by Vice President Steiman on page 1, and regarding questions he had asked during the discussion of the Strategic Plan. Mr. Warfield noted that there was no report of comments by the Bond Program Manager or his responses to her remarks concerning Program plans' impact on collections and public service, and found inadequate report of his comments in opposition to approval of the Gift Recognition Policy.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #1 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE September 18, 2003 COMMISSION MEETING

President Higuera noted that he was reported as voting for adjournment on October 16th although he had left the meeting and requested that that vote be corrected. Commissioner Coulter suggested revisions in the discussion of the History Plaques regarding a more complete listing of those who contributed to the revisions and also noted that the record should reflect that he had noted that the Commission had already approved the concept of the plaques and that funds were available. Commissioner Coulter additionally suggested that the anonymous member of the public had suggested that the plaques were full of inaccuracies but no response was offered when Commissioner Coulter invited this person to cite specifics that should be changed.

Please note: These are draft Minutes subject to change by the Library Commission. Copies of Commission Minutes and handouts are available in the Office of the Commission Secretary, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

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11/6/03
raft

Willie L. Brown, Jr.
Mayor

Charles A. Higuera, A.L.A.
President

Carol Steiman
Vice President

Helen Marte Bautista
Lonnie K. Chin
Steven A. Coulter
Fran A. Streets
Deborah Strobin
Commissioners

Susan Hildreth
City Librarian

Michael Housh
Commission Secretary



MOTION: Commissioner Bautista, seconded by Commissioner Strobin that the September 18, 2003 Minutes be approved as amended.

ACTION: AYE 6-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Higuera, Steiman, and Strobin)

AGENDA ITEM #2 BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Branch Library Improvement Program Manager Marilyn Thompson noted that there would be no informational report at this meeting. The Branch Improvement Program Manager then presented a Budget Report dated October 16, 2003, and then the current Schedule, Active Projects, and Community Outreach update reports with associated slides, (copies attached). The Branch Library Improvement Program Manager concluded her report noting that there was no special report this month.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #2 BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

An anonymous member of the public commented on the brevity of the reports offered on many projects presented suggesting that this brevity concealed significant details this person knew about. This person additionally discussed comments concerning the Library's role in a North Beach neighborhood controversy concerning acquisition of a site by eminent domain this person attributed to Supervisor Peskin. Mr. Peter Warfield noted that the explanatory documents related to Bond Program projects and activities presented were not available in advance. Mr. Warfield suggested that the great amount of information presented was too much to review when first presented at a meeting.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #2 BOND PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Responding to a question by Vice President Steiman concerning the new Glen Park Branch, the City Librarian reported that discussions about the sale of the project to a new developer were underway but that all agreements made with the original developer as provided in the Purchase and Sale Agreement would be binding on the new owner. In response to a question by President Higuera, Ms. Hildreth discussed the background of the various proposals put forward for alternative plans instead of the Library's proposed renovation of the current North Beach Branch on its current site. The City Librarian noted that the Library had had a very limited role in these discussions and any activities concerning acquisition of a 4,000 sq. ft. parking lot at 701 Lombard would be undertaken by the Recreation and Park Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

AGENDA ITEM #3 204 COMMISSION MEETINGS SCHEDULE

City Librarian Susan Hildreth recommended approval of the proposed schedule (copy attached) of meetings for 2004. Ms. Hildreth pointed out that the January meetings would be held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday. For the rest of the year, meetings were proposed to be held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, except for the months of July and August. Deputy City Attorney Catharine Barnes called attention to a typographical error on the explanatory document listing a proposed meeting on January 15th suggesting it be eliminated.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #3 GIFT RECOGNITION POLICY

An anonymous member of the public noted that there was historical precedent for fewer meetings during the Summer months. This person also suggested that the start time for meeting be moved back to 5:30pm. Mr. Peter Warfield agreed with the previous speaker calling for a return to a later start time suggesting that the 4pm start time was a barrier for some who wished to attend Commission meetings.

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM #3 2004 COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE

President Higuera suggested that a new Commission might wish to revisit the start time but that the current 4pm was acceptable to him.

MOTION: Commissioner Bautista, seconded by Commissioner Steiman for approval of the proposed Commission Meetings Schedule for 2004 with the elimination of the January 15th date.

ACTION: AYE 6-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Higuera, Steiman, and Strobin)

AGENDA ITEM # 4 LIBRARY HISTORY PLAQUES

Commissioner Steve Coulter called attention to the addition of items suggested at previous meetings related to non-English Language Collections as well as the early days of the Council for Neighborhood Libraries. Commissioner Coulter then pointed out formatting improvements designed to make the plaques easier to read. He noted that there were a number of other issues still under consideration for inclusion as well as continuing efforts to clean up any typographical and spelling errors. President Higuera suggested that the revised draft should be posted on the Library's website with clear indicators to help call attention to the proposed history and direct anyone who might be interested how to submit comment.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM # 4 LIBRARY HISTORY PLAQUES

An anonymous member of the public found the entire proposal questionable but in particular felt that the section related to the late former City Librarian John Franz unworthy characterization of his memory. Ms. Cathy Bremer, Librarian's Guild, suggested that this history would be more appropriate on the website rather than engraved plaques. Ms. Bremer also noted that donors rather than staff members, city librarians, or even commissioners were honored in the proposed history and that perhaps these plaques would be more appropriately located in the future home of the Friends of the Library. Ms. Andrea Grimes, Special Collections Librarian, commented that the Library rather than any special interest should assume responsibility for any placing history on its walls. Ms. Grimes found the proposed plaques exclusionary, and lacking in proper credit to those who founded the free public library. Ms. Grimes suggested instead a brochure, a website posting of a history developed by the library staff, and creation of an exhibition of a timeline of the Library's history at the Grove Street entry. Mr. Jim Kirwin expressed opposition to the proposed plaques as flawed and a travesty. Mr. Kirwin disparaged the proposed title and challenged the accuracy of the

history, suggesting that the true story was best left to writers and to books. He suggested instead plaques list books available in the library's collection on the history of the old and new Main Library and inquired regarding the proposed appearance of the plaques. Mr. Tom Carey, Main Library Librarian, questioned the accuracy of a report on the number of exhibits and suggested that there was division among library staff between those who received support from the Friends and those who did not. He suggested that the history did not belong on plaques, but instead in a brochure or in several cited books. Mr. Carey in particular questioned appropriateness of a single Commissioner's authorship of these plaques. Mr. Peter Warfield echoed comments concerning the book, Inscriptions, chronicling quotations engraved throughout the old Main Library and questioned the inclusivity of the point of view that shaped this history

Commission discussion of AGENDA ITEM # 4 LIBRARY HISTORY PLAQUES

Commissioner Coulter again repeated his request that anyone who felt that important stories that were missing come forward and join in improving the completeness of this history. Commissioner Coulter noted that the history's predominant emphasis on non-staff citizen activists rather than staff was the result of the way that this proposal evolved from the initial proposal for two plaques to the current much expanded version. Commissioner Coulter proposed to recheck portions related to former City Librarian John Franz and other sections called into question. Commissioner Coulter noted that his role was more of gatherer of materials brought to him by the activists and actual participants in the Library's history, longtime library staff, former Commissioners, and others in the community with a long history with the Library. Commissioner Coulter noted that this was an evolving document and that more changes would be incorporated. Vice President Steiman found the current proposal a bit wordy and suggested that perhaps plaques featuring important quotes as existed in the Old Main Library might work better in a ceremonial entry. Other materials she suggested could be put on the website or in a brochure. Commissioner Chin lauded recognition for citizens who came forward, and recommended that the plaques be inclusive and inspirational. Commissioner Chin also suggested that the detailed history would better be posted on the website or in a brochure. Commissioner Chin felt the plaques should recite comings and goings but instead focus on the inspirational. Commissioner Bautista suggested that the proposed history be featured in an article or other wider outreach that would draw public attention and bring in a wider point of view than just that of the Commissioners. Vice President Steiman suggested a listing of major milestones in the Library's history recognizing those who contributed could be created elsewhere. President Higuera called attention to the wide diversity of views concerning the best way to record the Library's history. He suggested that posting an expanded version on the Library's website could be good, and suggested that perhaps the recognition of heroes might be separated from a recitation of Library history. Commissioner Coulter reminded his colleagues that a primary point of this proposal was to call overdue attention to the many heroes who throughout the Library's history came forward in good times and bad to build the institution it is today. Commissioner Coulter pointed to the difficulties inherent in

selecting a limited number of quotations, and in finding how to include all of the issues and the wide diversity of points of view on events in Library history that have been brought forward within the limitations imposed by the space available. Commissioner Coulter noted that creation of the plaques was within the Commission's prerogative and that they would be the Commission's official statement. Commissioner Coulter noted how complicated it had been to fully recognize and be inclusive of the heroes who stepped forward to sustain the Library. He noted that any quotes emphasized should be specifically related to the San Francisco Public Library, should appear handsome, and leave room for future history to be added. In response to a question by Commissioner Strobin, it was noted that the history would be up to the present. Commissioner Coulter again requested that anyone with specific recommendations please bring them to him. Commissioner Chin expressed distaste for plaques in principle preferring other means to recount the history. President Higuera thanked Commissioner Coulter for his exhaustive efforts in drafting the proposed history and again emphasized that it was important that the draft be made available on the website with clear direction as to how anyone could bring comments to Commissioner Coulter.

AGENDA ITEM #5 PUBLIC COMMENT

An anonymous member of the public person expressed appreciation for the clarification of the situation regarding the North Beach Branch. This person noted that often in the past with the change of Mayoral administrations at least some Library Commissioners were continued in office in order to preserve continuity. Additionally, this individual commented on the subjective nature of attempts at recording history. Mr. Peter Warfield suggested that a bibliography of materials related to the Library's history would be useful and interesting. Mr. Tom Carey suggested that Mr. James Chaffee write a history of the Library, suggesting that it was important to consider who writes history, and that an effort be made to avoid the slippery slope of naming individuals and ethnic groups instead focusing on the wider community. Ms. Andrea Grimes suggested that an opportunity was being missed and instead of naming individuals she proposed use of the quotation that had been inscribed over the front door of the Old Main Library honoring everyone.

AGENDA ITEM #6 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Bautista, seconded by Commissioner Strobin that the meeting be adjourned.

Public comment on AGENDA ITEM #6 ADJOURNMENT

None offered

ACTION: AYE 6-0 (Bautista, Chin, Coulter, Higuera, Strobin, and Steiman)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03pm.

Michael Housh, Commission Secretary 11/17/03

Minutes of the Library Commission Meeting of October 16, 2003

Appendix A

The Public Comment Summary Statements included in these Minutes are authorized by San Francisco Administrative Code Section 67.16..

These summary statements are provided by the speaker. Their contents are neither generated by, nor subject to approval or verification of accuracy by, the San Francisco Public Library Commission.

The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Minutes of the Library Commission Meeting of October 16, 2003

Appendix A

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, October 16, 2003

Item 1:

Approval of the Minutes: September 18, 2003

“In the public comment on the Bond Program Manager’s reports, the discussion by the anonymous citizen included calling attention to a reduction in square footage. The question is answered later, but the question itself is never posed.

Comments about returning to ‘on schedule, on budget and on program’ which are also omitted.

Under the commission’s discussion of the gift recognition policy we have Commissioner Steiman pointing out that it was possible to follow the changes to the policy. But the anonymous citizen point out that highlighting of proposed changes and additions were not accurate.

Regarding the History Plaques, it is omitted that Commissioner Coulter assumed that a lack of correction made the plaques correct and that those who did not offer comments were intending to laugh at you and call you stupid. Since that drew comment later, it should be noted.”

Minutes of the Library Commission Meeting of October 16, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, October 16, 2003

Item 2:

Bond Program Manager's Report

"The slides of the presentation are available in hard copy. I am grateful, but they are not accurate because they omit the invited meetings which went by too quickly for me to write down.

We heard a very brief survey, and the brevity of the reports is significant. In those situations where I know some of the details, the abbreviation is significant.

In North Beach there is a controversial imminent domain petition being pursued by the city. I was at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors where Supervisor Peskin asked rather pointedly why the city was going ahead at this particular time and the answer he got was that the library had Proposition A money now.

Investigation has not revealed what the relationship is. No doubt those details will be revealed later. Even the library commission will not find out about it until it's a fait accompli or very close."

Minutes of the Library Commission Meeting of October 16, 2003

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Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, October 16, 2003

Item 3:
Commission Meeting Schedule

“I find myself preempted by the Deputy City Attorney. I was going to make that comment as well.

Historically there is precedent for the altered summer schedule. Traditionally this commission took a hiatus either in July or August. Of course, that was in the days when we had an active committee structure. I know it is difficult to raise a quorum, but there is still library business that goes on. Since there are no committee, we should probably lean toward full commission meetings.

This would be a marvelous opportunity to move back to the 5:30 meetings.”

Minutes of the Library Commission Meeting of October 16, 2003

Appendix A

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, October 16, 2003

Item 4:

Library History Plaques

“I am reluctant to comment on this and be accused of rearranging the proverbial deck chairs.

This bears the same relationship to history that advertising does to corporate responsibility, and for the same reason.

Out of humanitarian concern there is at least one issue that cries out to be corrected. It states that John Frantz resigns because he opposes building a New Main Library, believing in technology.

Does Mr. Frantz want to be known for that after his full decade of service? I dare say not.

Mr. Frantz resigned over a very bitter personnel controversy and then opposed the building.

If you want confirmation, James Haas wrote a ballot argument pointing this out. Also, did he have a greater faith in technology than his successors?

This was a dark chapter in his tenure, and it is unworthy of him and unworthy of you for him to be branded by it now.”

Minutes of the Library Commission Meeting of October 16, 2003

Appendix A

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The number of members of the public who spoke anonymously at this meeting. 1

Public Comment of An Anonymous Citizen

San Francisco Public Library Commission Meeting, October 16, 2003

Item 5:

Public Comment

"I appreciate the clarification about North Beach. I want to make it clear that I was reporting what I had heard. Those were not my comments.

This commission has never turned over completely with a new mayor. The commissioners always represent that there is some value in continuity and at least two commissioners are held over. The exception was only Fran Streets was held over. That is why we have commissioners with long tenures.

Our understanding of history is always subtle and highly subjective. In a gesture of commemoration the citizen created the Pioneer Monument. We know now the very ambivalent feelings that were engendered.

I hope you drew more lessons from my discussion of John Frantz than just those related to the Wall of Heroes. He was very courteous to me after he was treated the way I had been treated."



San Francisco Public Library

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION
2004 MEETING SCHEDULE
AS APPROVED OCTOBER 16, 2003

JANUARY 2004 MEETINGS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6 at 4:00PM &

TUESDAY JANUARY 20, 2004 at 4:00PM

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 4:00PM

FEBRUARY 5, MARCH 4, APRIL 1, MAY 6, JUNE 3,
JULY 1, AUGUST 5, SEPTEMBER 2, OCTOBER 7,
NOVEMBER 4, and DECEMBER 2, 2004

THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 4:00PM

FEBRUARY 19, MARCH 18, APRIL 15, MAY 20,
JUNE 17, JULY 15, AUGUST 19, SEPTEMBER 16,
OCTOBER 21, NOVEMBER 18, and
DECEMBER 16, 2004.

M. Housh, Commission Secretary 10/31/03

Library Commission

October 16, 2003

1. Approval of the Minutes

Explanatory document:
Draft Minutes September 18, 2003

2. Bond Program Manager's Report

Informational Presentation

None

Regular Reports

Budget Report
Schedule Report
Active Projects Reports
Community Outreach Update

Budget Report

Explanatory document:
Current Budget Report dated 10/16/03

Budget Report

- Recap:
 - 10-10-01 Baseline Budget & Reserve established
 - 11-15-01 Glen Park increased \$88,000 for site acquisition
 - 01-17-02 Increased Reserve for Prop 14 (reduced all projects 5%)
 - 05-16-02 Art Enrichment Program Funded (\$302,000 from 6 projects)
 - 06-20-02 Mission Bay increased \$653,000 for site acquisition
 - 12-20-02 Ingleside increased \$435,000 for site acquisition
 - 02-20-03 Friends & Foundation Budget for FF&E updated
 - 04-17-03 VVA increased \$716,000 for site acquisition
 - 06-26-03 DRE increased \$115,281
 - TODAY Relocation & Moving Budgets allocated

Schedule Report

Explanatory document:
Summary Schedule dated 4/17/03

Schedule Report

- Recap:
 - 10-10-01 Baseline Schedule established
 - 12-20-01 Revised Glen Park to match Developer's schedule
 - 01-17-02 Issued detailed schedules for Phases 1-2
 - 02-21-02 Revised to reflect Prop 14 strategy
Revised Mission Bay to match Developer's schedule
 - 03-21-02 Issued detailed schedules for all Phases
 - 04-18-02 Revised to reflect Prop 14 strategy
 - 06-20-02 Adjusted projects for geographic distribution
 - 04-17-03 Revised to reflect revised Prop 14 strategy
Revised Mission Bay to match Developer's schedule
Revised Glen Park to match Developer's schedule
 - TODAY No changes

Active Projects Reports New Construction

- Mission Bay
 - GMP approved
 - Groundbreaking
- Glen Park
 - Purchase & Sale Agreement

Active Projects Reports New Construction

- Ingleside
 - Closing
 - Prop 14 Application
 - Planning Dept. Applications / Approvals
 - Conceptual Design Phase
 - Public Art
- Portola
 - Purchase & Sale Agreement
 - Prop 14 Application
 - Subdivision
 - Planning Dept. Applications / Approvals
 - Conceptual Design Phase
 - Public Art

Active Projects Reports New Construction

- Visitacion Valley
 - Closing
 - Planning Dept. Applications / Approvals
 - Prop 14 Application
 - Conceptual Design Phase
- Ortega
 - Prop 14 Application
 - Coordination with RPD & DCP

Active Projects Reports Renovations

- Richmond
 - Prop 14 Determination 10/28
 - Design Development Phase
- Excelsior
 - Bidding
 - Bookmobile
 - Closing for Construction
- Noe Valley
 - Building Assessments
 - Design Workshop
 - Conceptual Design Phase

Active Projects Reports Renovations

- Marina
 - Contract Negotiations (Tom Eliot Fisch / Field Paoli)
- Parkside
 - Expansion Option
 - Reconsider after Grant Determinations
- North Beach
 - Planning & Programming Phase
 - Contract Negotiations (Loddy Maytum Stacey)
 - Triangle Property

Active Projects Reports Renovations

- Sunset
 - Contract Negotiations (Fougeron)
 - Community Survey
 - Landmark Status
 - Accelerated Schedule
- West Portal
 - Contract Negotiations (Thomas Hacker)
 - Community Survey

Community Outreach Update

- Library meetings:
 - 11/19 West Portal Community Meeting
 - 11/20 Tentative Joint Commission Meeting with Rec/Park Commission
 - 10/25 Richmond / Library Issues Meeting (co-sponsored with Supervisor McGoldrick's Town Hall)
 - 11/6 Ingleside's Public Art Selection Panel
 - 11/21 Portola's Public Art Selection Panel

Community Outreach Update

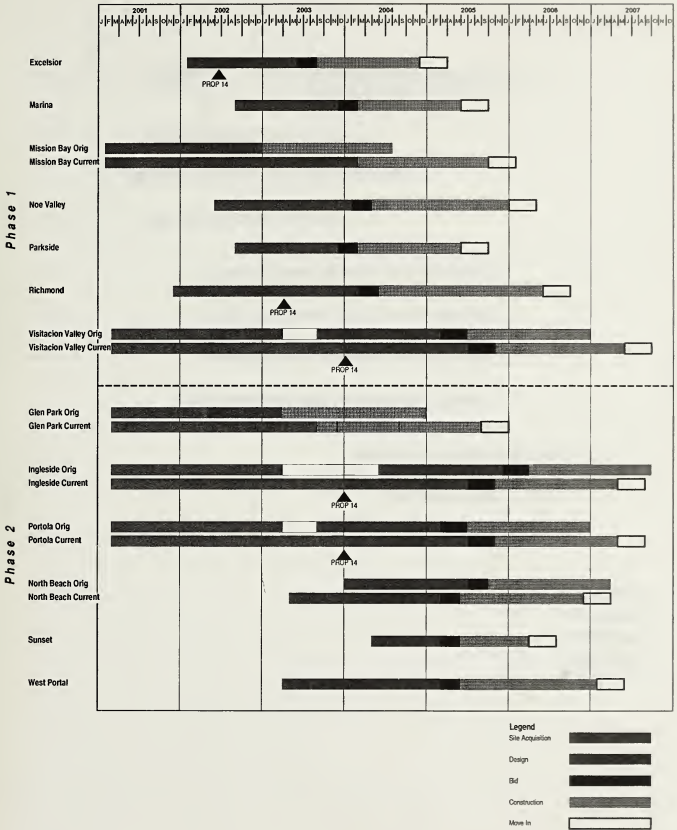
- Related City Boards/Commissions:
 - 10/21 Bd of Sups (701 Lombard)
 - 10/23 Citizens GO Bond Oversight Committee
- Web Site & Newsletter
 - www.sfpd.org/news/03ip/improvementprogram.htm
 - Newsletter issued quarterly

Special Reports

None

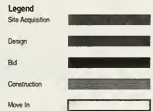
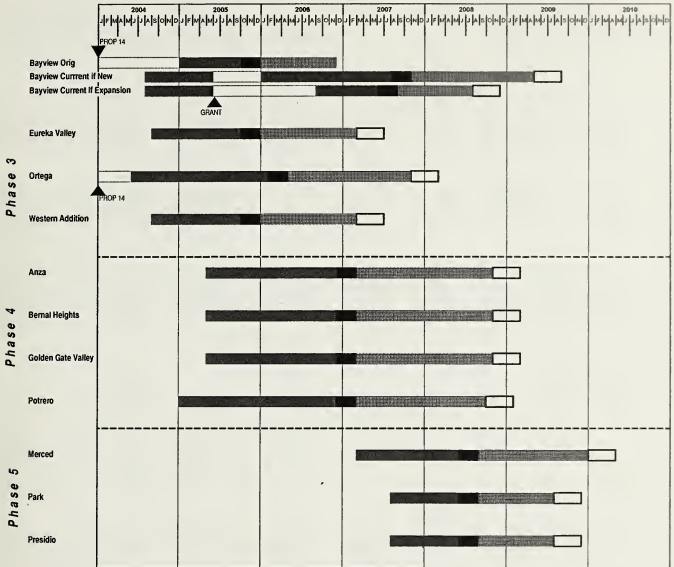
Branch Library Program Summary Schedules

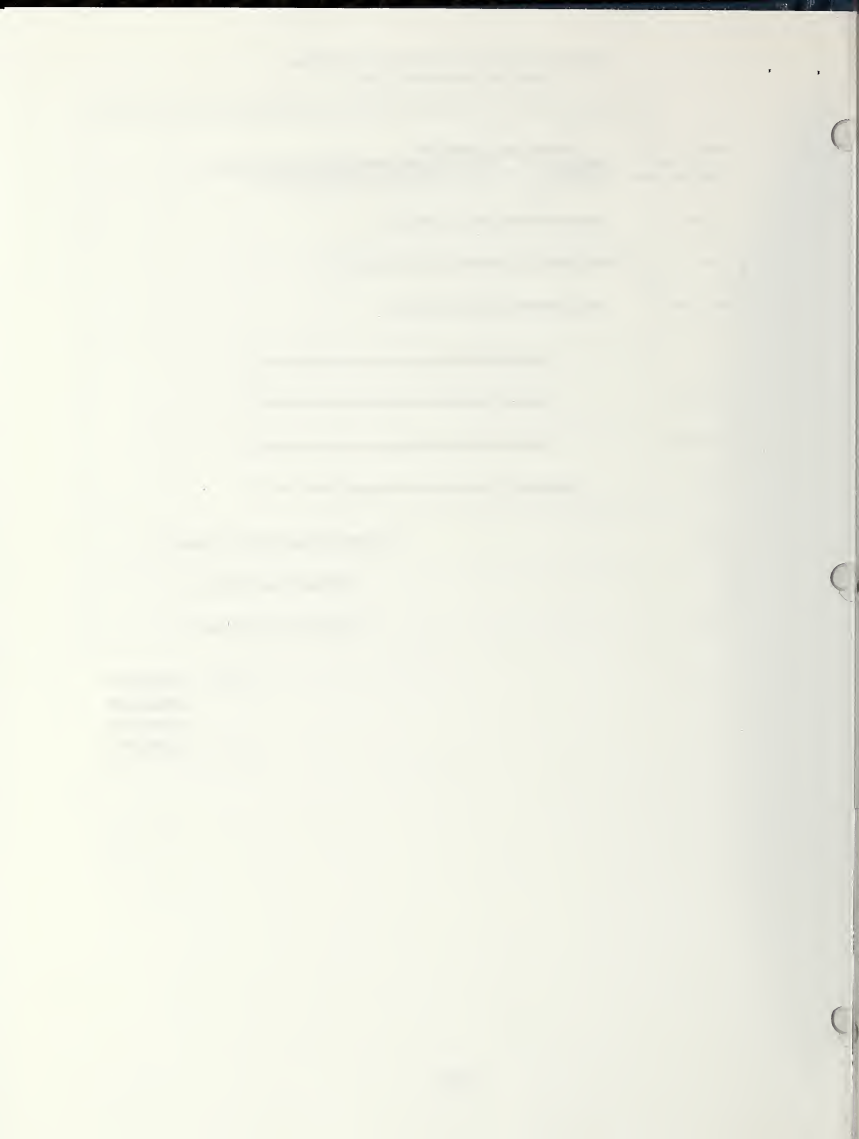
Monthly Bond Program Manager's Report



Branch Library Program Summary Schedules

Monthly Bond Program Manager's Report





FUND STATUS

Appropriated Available

Total

All Sources

Other Sources

State Prop. 13

City Prop. A Bonds

FUND STRATEGY

Prop. 13

REVENUE

Total

All Sources

Other Sources

State Prop. 13

City Prop. A Bonds

FUND STRATEGY

Prop. 13

BUDGET

Approved Budget (1003)

Proposed Budget (1003)

Barstow Budget (1001)

Budget (603)

Barstow Budget (1003)

Budget (603)

Phase 0 Projects

GP 7514A Gen Park

GP 7514B Gen Park

PN 7519A Ponds

PN 7519B Ponds

PV 7521A Visation Valley

SC 7522A Support Services

Phase 1 Projects

EX 7525A Excelsior

MA 7526A Marina

MB 7518A Mission Bay

NV 7517A Nova Valley

RV 7515A Rockwood

Phase 2 Projects

GP 7515A Gen Park

IN 7517A Ingdeside

PL 7520A Ponds

NB 7520A Norm Beach

WP 7529A West Portal

Phase 3 Projects

BA 7530A Bayview

EV 7530A Europa Valley

OR 7531A Oregon

WA 7532A Wastion Addition

Phase 4 Projects

AZ 7533A Ariza

BE 7534A Bimetal Heights

GC 7535A Golden Gate Valley

PT 7536A Paradise

Phase 5 Projects

ME 7537A Mendocino

MD 7538A Mendocino

PD 7539A Paradise

Program Mktg. Supplies & Costs

M 7541A Library Program Goals

CS 7540A Program Consultants

PH 7540A City Program Management

RE 7540A Real Estate Dept

RM 7540A Program Intern Services

FE 7540A Furniture & Equipment Reserve

FC 7540A Bond Financing Costs

SF 7540A Special Events

TOTAL

not used

Earthquake Safety Program funds remaining for Branch Libraries

Private Donations from Friends & Foundation, Includes Foundation Fundraising Expenses.

Prop. 13 applications may be submitted for these projects

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

15,799,861

2,452,057

43,655,000

134,265,000

105,665,000

10,000,000

18,400,000

134,265,000

3,352,225

3,352,225

2,020,238

58,239

15,799,861

2,452,057

43,655,000

134,265,000

105,665,000

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Wall of Library Heroes

Public Comments and Changes

This is an updated version of the proposed *Wall of Library Heroes* first formally introduced at the Library Commission hearing on 9/18/03 and heard a second time 10/2/03. That version was dated 9/18/03. This version reflects recommended changes from the public and staff and carries the date of the next Commission hearing when it will be heard again, 10/16/03.

Any additional comments will be factored into a final version to be voted on at the hearing on 11/6/03.

Changes deal primarily with non-English language collections and the formation of the Neighborhood Council of Libraries. Changes are indicated in **bold face** and can be found in Box 1 toward the end of the document, and under the years 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970, 1981, 1988, and 1989. The document has also been reorganized slightly with all boxed sections now at the end of the document. The four boxes will be placed at the bottom of the last four plaques with copy running above, much like you might see sidebars in a magazine.

One comment made is that the material seems long for plaques. It is hoped that the use of the boxes will help. There will be six plaques, 3'X3', each carrying four columns. Also, it is possible that additional editing may be required when the graphic artist formats the material for transfer to the glass plaques.

In addition to the plaques, it is intended that the full version will appear on the Library web site and perhaps in a future brochure on SFPL history.

Suggested changes and comments can be directed to Library Commission Secretary Mike Housh, San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, 100 Larkin Street, San Francisco CA 94102. You can also email mhoush@sfppl.org or bring suggestions to the upcoming Commission hearing.

(This page only— approved in April 2003 by the SFPL Commission after two public hearings)

Keepers of the Dream

Our free public library is a cultural institution unlike any other.

Inside is the history of the world, our greatest literature, ideas to strengthen our democracy, insights into science and business. It is a house of books and an electronic discovery center. You can travel to the stars or inside an atom, sail on a pirate ship or take any journey of the imagination. It is a magical place for children, a workroom for writers, a treasure chest for scholars. It is an educational and cultural resource. It reflects and respects our social diversity. It is a champion of intellectual freedom. It is this and more.

Yet the library is fragile, depending on elected officials who care, the good will of voters, the talent of its staff and citizens who understand its purpose and champion its cause.

The San Francisco Public Library struggled from the beginning, its history a mixture of inspired leadership and long periods of civic disinterest.

In the late 1950s, after years of decline, the San Francisco Public Library found its modern day angels. Imbued with civic spirit, a group of citizens demanded change. A great city, they argued, needed a great public library system. They dreamed big and worked tirelessly to create something tangible and important for future generations. Their struggle lasted 40 years. Charming or feisty, depending on the situation, often audacious, sometimes controversial, they made all the difference.

Many shared the dream and worked to achieve it. We honor them and thank the people of San Francisco for their faith and support. We also offer special recognition to three for extraordinary leadership, vision, and tenacity, inspiring others to join the cause. This trio led the effort through the decades, never losing hope, never accepting defeat, never forgetting the dream: Marjorie G. Stern, Mary Louise Stong, Margaret 'Mig' Mayer

This building is hereby dedicated to their civic spirit, their selfless leadership, their devotion to the ideals of a public library, and to the passion that made them keepers of the dream.

We are grateful.

Willie L. Brown, Jr., *Mayor*

SFPL Commission
Charles A. Higuera, *President*
Carol Steiman, *Vice President*
Helen Marte Bautista
Lonnie K. Chin

Steven A. Coulter
Fran A. Streets
Deborah Strobins
Commissioners

Susan Hildreth, *City Librarian*

April 4, 2003

Wall of Library Heroes

In creating this *Wall of Library Heroes*, the Library Commission seeks to capture many of the stories that shaped this cultural icon and the names of individuals who stepped forward offering leadership, perseverance and hope. We have selected items, big and small, positive and negative, which we believe reflect the dynamic, complex nature and history of the Library system and the city it serves.

Our focus is on unpaid citizen volunteers and champions. There have also been many heroes on staff and their fine work is honored in other programs. We recognize that telling history can be a perilous task. We acknowledge that not every detail or every individual who did important work is listed here. Future generations may inscribe on these walls other stories and the names of new heroes, *Keepers of the Dream*, who keep alive the promise of a "free public library in this city."

History of the San Francisco Public Library

San Francisco was a literate place by boomtown standards. Although wild and often lawless following the discovery of gold in 1848, some observers said the City had more newspapers in more languages than London and more college graduates than any other city in the country. While some claimed the City put Gomorrah to shame, others pointed out that it had a large number of bookstores, attracted writers such as Ambrose Bierce, Mark Twain and Bret Harte and boasted major book publishers and collectors such as Hubert Howe Bancroft.

In 1852 you could visit several private libraries, including one in the What Cheer House, a temperance hotel. The Mercantile Association formed the city's first subscription library in 1853; dues were \$1 a month. Also in 1853 there are reports of a group of black merchants opening the Athenaeum Library Company. The Mechanics' Institute library opened in 1854 and still exists.

The late 1870s were troubled times for San Francisco. There was widespread unemployment, labor unrest, anti-Chinese agitation and resentment toward civic corruption and the wealthy, powerful men who dominated politics. Into this atmosphere the San Francisco Public Library was born.

1877

Residents of San Francisco hold a meeting at Dashaway Hall on Post Street to create a funding mechanism for a free public library. The project is initiated by cable car inventor Andrew Hallidie and State Senator George H. Rogers. Hallidie is a former President of the Mechanics' Institute and frustrated in his attempts to turn that library into a privately endowed public institution. He hopes a free public library can draw some restless young men from the bars and fleshpots of the city's more notorious neighborhoods. A resolution passed by the group states:

"Whereas, We, the citizens of San Francisco, here assembled, believe that the dissemination of education among people is the only safeguard to republican liberty and government, and believing the establishment of public libraries to be the best and cheapest means of educating the people, therefore; Resolved, That we do most heartily approve of the project about to be inaugurated for the establishment of a free library in this city and do pledge to the same our hearty and united support."

1878

Governor William Irwin signs into law the Rogers Act, allowing any city to levy a property tax to raise Library funds and create a *Board of Library Trustees* to oversee it. In order to keep the Library free from the general corruption of City politics, the Board of Trustees is self-perpetuating rather than being appointed by the mayor.

1879

The first City Librarian, Albert Hart, is hired.

The first Board of Trustees includes Andrew Hallidie and ten other mostly self-made men including a carpenter, a social activist, a couple of lawyers and six businessmen.

The Board of Supervisors votes to support the Library but fails to allocate sufficient funds. The Board also is unwilling to provide space in any publicly owned building.

On its own, the Library opens on gifts and credit, renting space in the theatre district on Bush Street. It is an immediate success with the public. Women have their own section.

1880

Librarian Hart resigns due to stress over the lack of funds. He is replaced by Charles Robinson who quits after seven months claiming that he is overworked.

Supervisors hold up allocation of funds in a struggle over patronage jobs. A judge orders the funds released.

The next City Librarian, Frederic Beecher Perkins, is a cousin of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Perkins provides Library pages with slippers so they will not make noise going up ladders to retrieve books. He also removes "dirty books" from the collection and warns "a library is not...a haunt for loafers and criminals."

The annual library budget is now \$48,000.

1885

Supervisors reduce Library revenues to \$18,000 a year, eliminating the book budget. Librarian Perkins declares that opponents are out to destroy the Library if they cannot control it.

1887

Perkins, tired of the budget fights, resigns amidst a public squabble over ejecting an unruly youth from the Library. Poet John Vance Cheney is named as his replacement. Cheney is working as a cashier in the Post Office when offered the job as Chief Librarian.

1888

The Main Library moves to the Larkin Street wing of the new City Hall, on a site later known as Marshall Square and the eventual site of the current new Main Library.

The Public Library opens its first three branches in the Mission, North Beach and Potrero districts.

1892

Richmond Branch opens near Golden Gate Park.

1893

The Main Library relocates within City Hall to the third floor of the McAllister Street wing.

1894

The Library annual report notes that the 38 employees of the Library make about \$48.95 per month, less than other city workers.

1895

Travel books and other literature are provided on special women's tables to help "take from them the desire for trashy literature."

George T. Clark is appointed City Librarian and begins expanding the collection. Circulation doubles in five years.

1896

James Duval Phelan, wealthy son of one of the original 49ers, is elected Mayor with a goal of reforming city politics and introducing European style urban planning. He supports construction of a separate Main Library, a goal of the Library Trustees. He will become a major supporter and patron of the Library.

To help protect the Library from patronage politics, examinations are required for Library jobs.

1898

A new City Charter increases the tax assessment for the Library Fund, setting a minimum appropriation of \$75,000. But it will take five years for the Library to actually receive that amount.

Presidio Branch opens on Fillmore Street.

Ten thousand books, about one tenth of the collection, are placed in open stacks.

1901

Mayor Phelan donates \$16,000 to build a branch South of Market. It includes a library for the blind. He also gives money for libraries in the city's almshouses and to two high schools.

Phelan announces plans to build a new Main Library and several new branches and convinces the Andrew Carnegie Foundation to pledge \$750,000.

The San Francisco Labor Council opposes the Carnegie donation arguing that the philanthropist was anti-labor and the offer was a "*presumptuous claim of a wealthy nonresident to dictate our municipal policy in the assumed name of philanthropy.*" Supervisors disagree and vote to accept the offer although it will take years until the City is ready to use it for a new Main Library.

1902

Businessman Andrew J. McCreery donates \$45,000 for a branch in Eureka Valley.

1903

Voters approve a bond issue for a new Main Library, but bond problems and a fight over location doom the effort. The Carnegie offer remains in limbo.

Chicago architect Daniel Burnham, leader of the City Beautiful movement, begins to design a master plan for San Francisco, including a Civic Center with a new library building.

1906

Burnham presents his final plan for the city's redesign.

A major earthquake destroys City Hall in seconds and a fire destroys the book collection at the Main Library. Said an eyewitness inspecting the damage: "There was only a thin white ash where a hundred and sixty thousand books had been." The Phelan (South of Market) and North Beach branches are destroyed, the McCreery (Eureka Valley) Branch is severely damaged and most Library employees are left homeless.

Fifteen thousand items are out on loan at the time; 1,500 eventually come back, the last, a group of periodicals from the 1850s, in 1996.

1907

A temporary Main Library is built at Hayes and Franklin streets.

George Clarke resigns as City Librarian and is replaced by William R. Watson, the first person trained as a professional librarian to head the system.

1909

A new Park Branch opens near the Panhandle.

The City begins to raise funds and consider plans for a new Civic Center.

1910

Supervisors put a charter amendment on the ballot to change the Library *Board of Trustees* from a self-perpetuating to an elected board. Voters turn it down. Angry, the Board of Supervisors cuts the Library budget.

1911

Music teacher Julius Rehn Weber arranges for the purchase of the 10,000-item music library from the Schirmer Music Library in Boston. Over the next decade he helps the Library develop the collection to become one of the best in the country.

1912

A ballot measure approves bond money for a new City Hall and Civic Center.

The Library asks the Carnegie Foundation to fulfill its 1901 funding pledge. Former Mayor and Library Trustee Edward Taylor opposes use of the Carnegie money and is backed by the Labor Council. Library Trustees and Supervisors vote overwhelmingly to accept the funds. Opponents put the question on the ballot but voters approve the Carnegie funds.

Robert Rea becomes City Librarian where he has worked since he was 13 years old.

1914

The temporary Main Library reaches capacity.

A contest is held for the design of the new Main Library. Architect George W. Kelham, who designed the Palace Hotel and is chief architect for the Panama-Pacific Exposition, is selected. It will be built in a formal Beaux Arts style.

Another architect who did not win the contest sues, charging that the design is similar to the design of the Detroit Public Library. But the case is dismissed. The *San Francisco Chronicle* laments, "There has been little new in architecture in the last hundred years—that is, monumental architecture."

Carnegie Foundation funds are earmarked for the construction of five permanent branch buildings.

The new Richmond Branch opens with funds from Carnegie.

1915

Ground is broken for the new Main Library. Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph and other officials take part in the ceremony.

1916

The cornerstone for the Main Library is laid, ten years after the devastating earthquake of 1906. A silver trowel commemorating the event goes into the San Francisco Library's history collection.

Noe Valley Branch opens through funds from the Carnegie Foundation.

1917

By horse and wagon, books are moved into the new Main Library.

The Main Library opens on February 15, 1917. Five hundred people take part in the ceremony. The building cost is \$1.153 million. Library Trustee and Board of Education President Joseph O'Connor refers to the building as "*this magnificent chaste temple of learning.*"

1918

Sunset and Golden Gate Valley branches open with funds from the Carnegie Foundation.

1920

At the instigation of Library Trustee William Young, the Main Library begins to acquire rare books. The Library also starts collecting works from San Francisco's fine printers and binders who are gaining international stature.

1921

Carnegie Foundation funds build two new buildings: North Beach Branch on Powell Street and Presidio Branch on Sacramento Street

A new Eureka Valley Branch opens, replacing the McCreery Branch that was damaged in the 1906 earthquake.

The Library budget is \$185,000 a year. Librarians are paid \$85 to \$95 a month, less than other City employees.

1925

Excelsior and Ingleside branches open.

1926

A report by the San Francisco Center indicates that Library children's services are under-funded and that the Library was *"the one large public library in the country which does not appreciate the value of assistants who are graduates of library schools."*

1927

Glen Park and Bayview branches open.

The Library names the rare book and fine printing collection as a memorial to Max J. Kuhl, a rare book collector and the attorney for the Panama-Pacific Exhibition of 1915. Several rare book enthusiasts help build the collection including Albert Bender who donates a Kelmscott Chaucer, a Dove's Press Bible and pages from the first and second folio Ashendene Spenser.

1928

Portola and Ocean View branches open.

Library Trustees President James Phelan commissions an outside study of the Library. The report states that the collection is excellent considering its near destruction in the 1906 earthquake and fire, but the Library is under-funded, and staff is largely untrained and seriously underpaid. Igniting a controversy, the study suggests replacing City Librarian Robert Rea with someone trained in library science. The League of Women Voters does its own survey and defends Rea. He retires in 1945.

1929

The Business Branch opens in the financial district.

With the Great Depression, Library funding declines but the number of people using the Library skyrockets.

1931

The Police Department is allowed to use the basement of the Main Library for target practice.

A new City Charter turns the Library Board of Trustees into a Commission appointed by the Mayor.

1932

Anza Branch opens.

1933

As poor economic times continue, Mayor Angelo Rossi appoints a Citizens Advisory Committee that recommends major cuts in the Library budget. The book budget is cut significantly.

1935

Visitacion Valley Branch opens.

Mayor Rossi seeks federal help to build new branches on permanent city-owned sites. The City receives \$90,000.

1936

Parkside, West Portal and Bernal branches open, all in rental sites.

1939

West Portal Branch opens.

1940

Library staff, almost entirely women, campaigns successfully for civil service protection.

A new Bernal Branch opens in a city owned site.

Mayor Rossi and the Library Commission approve an ambitious plan to expand branches and establish a branch in every public school but it is never implemented.

Local businessman Alfred Furhman dies and bequeaths a portion of his estate to the Library for the purchase of books on economics and political subjects. The gift provides thousands of books and other materials through the present.

1943

The Main Library reaches capacity.

The City seeks federal Works Progress Administration funds to build an addition to the Main Library but is unsuccessful.

Library card holding and circulation began a slow decline that will continue for several years.

Mayor Roger Lapham seeks federal funds for construction of ten branches but is turned down.

1944

Mayor Lapham, before he appoints trial lawyer Nat Schmulowitz to the Library Commission, asks for his assessment on what to do with the Library. Schmulowitz gives a negative report borrowing metaphors from Jonathan Swift: there is a group on the Commission that treats books as sarcophagi for knowledge, the Library as a cemetery, the Librarian as the undertaker and the Commission and staff as honorary and active pallbearers.

After his appointment to the Commission, Schmulowitz is elected President. He recommends an outside study of the Library and community leaders suggest the Library improve and expand services.

1945

Robert Rea resigns as City Librarian after 56 years with the Library. Commission Secretary Laurence J. Clarke is appointed to succeed him, the second professional librarian to hold the post. He begins to make plans for a bond issue for an addition to the Main and hopes to expand other services.

1947

On April Fools Day, Schmulowitz donates his collection on *Wit and Humor* to the Library and gives an endowment. The collection eventually grows to become one of the largest of its kind in the world and is named in his honor.

The Library faces serious budget problems. The federal government threatens to stop providing government documents free of charge after it discovers the Library is not making them available to the public.

1948

A bond issue for 18 new branches and an addition to the Main Library, championed by City Librarian Clarke, fails by 12,000 votes. It will be 40 years before there is another vote.

The Library Commission writes to the Board of Supervisors, "*The history of the library clearly shows the lack of interest by the City Administration in the building up of library service.*" The report is ignored.

1949

Citizens concerned about the future of the Library meet to form the first, short-lived *Friends of the San Francisco Public Library*. Nat Schmulowitz presides; Dr. Charles Albert Schumate is elected President. Mary Louise Stong is one of the participants.

1951

The new Parkside and Potrero branches open replacing rented facilities.

1953

Voters turn down a limited bond issue to reorganize the Main Library and make it more efficient.

1954

Marina Branch opens.

1956

Ortega Branch opens.

1957

Anna Waden, a health department employee of modest means, leaves money in her will to construct a new branch in Bayview/Hunters Point.

The *Chronicle* runs a series of critical articles on the Library by reporter Hale Champion. One headline asks, "Where are the books?" while another article states "Public Library a Disgrace to San Francisco."

Eureka Valley Branch is damaged in an earthquake.

1958

The Library Commission retains Emerson Greenaway, President of the American Library Association, to survey San Francisco's Library and make recommendations. His report urges additional city funding, improvements to the Main Library and the hiring of trained staff. Long term, he says, a new building is needed.

Merced Branch opens.

1959

Mayor George Christopher appoints a 'Committee of 50' prominent citizens to examine the decline of the Library system, particularly the Main Library. Marjorie Stern is one of the members.

A grand jury report says the Main Library is gloomy, soiled and odoriferous, a kind of skid row hostel for the homeless, a building that is out of date. Only 1500 books were checked out in 1959 vs. 12,000 a year previously.

The new North Beach Branch opens. The old North Beach Branch, a Carnegie building on Powell Street, is renamed Chinatown Branch.

1960

San Franciscans for a Better Library, a citizens group, is formed.

William R. Holman, a librarian from San Antonio, is hired to head the San Francisco Library system. He says "*San Francisco is a bookish, unique city and it certainly does not deserve a third-rate library.*" He estimates that thousands of book catalog cards are missing and tens of thousands of books have yet to be cataloged.

1961

Prominent residents meet to form another Library support group, the *San Francisco Library League*.

The Committee of 50, San Franciscans for a Better Library and the *San Francisco Library League* join forces under a new name: *Friends of the San Francisco Public Library*. (For leadership, see Box 1, *Friends of the San Francisco Public Library*).

City Librarian William Holman makes a master's degree in library science a requirement for new librarians.

1962

A new Eureka Valley Branch opens.

1963

Calligrapher Richard Harrison donates his collection to the Library.

1964

The *Friends* organization holds its first annual book sale of material donated to the Library. It is chaired by Hilde Kolb and raises \$4,000 to purchase rare materials for the Library. Over the years, this sale becomes the biggest in the western United States and raises hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Library. (For leadership, see Box 1, *Friends Book Sale*).

The Main Library establishes a collection of material on local history.

1965

The *Friends* lobby the City for more funds and the book budget gets a significant increase.

The Library begins ordering more materials of interest to the gay and lesbian community.

The Library receives the private collection of Robert Grabhorn on the *History of Printing and the Development of the Book*, half of it a gift from the *Friends*.

1966

Western Addition Branch opens.

Margaret 'Mig' Mayer becomes the first Executive Director of the Friends of the Library. She will work behind the scenes for twenty-five years supporting improved library services.

The State Librarian designates San Francisco Public Library as the hub of the Bay Area Reference Center (BARC), one of three regional reference groups.

The Library orders its first Japanese language materials for both the Main and Western Addition Branch.

1967

William R. Holman resigns as City Librarian saying he is proud of the Rare Books and Special Collections Department he helped create but tired of internal conflicts. The *Examiner* says he inherited "*one of the most infamous cultural fossils in the country*" and moved it in the direction of becoming a modern library.

The Library develops its first African American collections for Bayview, Western Addition, Ocean View and Ingleside branches.

1968

Tucson librarian John Anderson is hired to head the San Francisco system. Anderson describes the Main Library as "*the worst metropolitan library in the country.*"

Marjorie Stern is appointed to the Library Commission where she will serve until 1989.

A new Excelsior Branch is dedicated.

The Spanish language collections are expanded to include popular materials as well as classic European literature.

1969

San Francisco librarians organize a union, the *Librarians Guild*, which later becomes an affiliate of SEIU, Local 790. A separate existing organization, the *Staff Association*, continues through the early 1990s.

The new Anna E. Waden Branch opens in Bayview, named after its benefactor.

1970

Librarians join other city workers in a four-day strike protesting a proposal to restrict wage increases for city employees.

Chinese language books, newspapers and periodicals are first offered at Chinatown Branch.

1971

The *Friends* donate the first bookmobile to serve older adults.

1972

Mayor Joseph Alioto faces a major budget deficit and announces closure of Ocean View, Portola and Golden Gate branches to save money. He later drops his plans.

Friends members form a new organization to lobby the state and city for more funding—*Keep Libraries Alive!* Leaders include Sally Brunn, Grace Macduff Parker, Billie Pearl-Schuler, Mary Louise Stong and Marjorie Stern.

1973

City Librarian Anderson resigns, saying he was given responsibility to run the institution but not the authority to appoint the personnel he needed to get the job done. Mayor Alioto names historian Kevin Starr the Acting City Librarian and will later make him permanent director.

1974

A major fight develops over a site Library supporters hoped to use for a new Main Library. Doubting that the Library can raise the needed private funds for a new Main, Mayor Alioto announces that he is backing Marshall Square as site of a new Symphony Hall. Library Commission President Ed Callanan urges that the Mayor find a different location. Library supporters campaign against the move. With the help of Supervisors Ron Pelosi and Bob Mendelsohn and assistance from attorney William Coblentz, a parking lot is released by the Board of Education for the Symphony Hall site and the Library gets Marshall Square.

The Library pioneers the establishment of services for the hearing and sight impaired using video and audiotapes. A *Library for the Blind and Print Handicapped* is eventually established at Presidio Branch.

1975

City Librarian Starr requests an increase in the budget and, in the Spirit of 1776, marches the document over to City Hall followed by a Fife and Drum Corps dressed as Minutemen. The Library gets a six percent increase.

1976

The Library's first automation system is installed.

The Library begins its Black Oral History Project.

"*Meet Me At the San Francisco Public Library*," a public relations campaign, encourages people to visit the Library and meet William Shakespeare, Mark Twain, the Cat in the Hat and others. It is developed by Friends board member John van der Zee.

Starr steps down as City Librarian. During the search for a new department head, three different interim directors are appointed, two for one month each and one, Edwin Castagna, for six months.

1977

John Frantz is named City Librarian. He once headed the Brooklyn Public Library and worked with the Iranian government to build a new national library.

1978

The Eureka Valley Branch is renamed as a memorial to slain Supervisor Harvey Milk, a long time Library supporter and member of the *Friends*.

Passage of *Proposition 13*, rolling back property taxes, seriously impacts the City's ability to fund the Library and other public agencies.

City Guides, offering free neighborhood history tours, is started by Judith Lynch in the Main Library's San Francisco History Room.

1979

San Francisco Public Library celebrates its 100th birthday with a giant cake and party in Civic Center Plaza. *Friends* President David Lelewer cuts the first piece with the silver plated trowel used in 1916 when the cornerstone of the old Library was put in place.

1980

City Librarian Frantz threatens closure of ten neighborhood branches and the business branch if a proposed 20 percent budget cut is enacted. The *Keep Libraries Alive!* group demonstrates at City Hall. The *Friends* pay the rent for the Business Branch.

The *Friends* assume responsibility for continuing the City Guides program.

1981

A budget compromise keeps all branches open.

The Library pioneers in the selection of children's books celebrating diverse cultures and devoid of social stereotypes. The collection is named the *Effie Lee*

Morris Historical and Research Collection of Children's Literature, honoring the Library's first Coordinator of Children's Services.

Vietnamese language materials are first offered at Chinatown Branch.

1982

A report by Columbia University library expert Lowell Martin recommends consolidation of branches to save money and improve service quality. The report catalyzes the opposite effect, increasing public support for the branches.

The *Friends* open *Book Bay* at Fort Mason to sell donated books and materials. The money helps fund Library projects the City could otherwise not afford.

The *Friends* and City Arts & Lectures, led by Sydney Goldstein, launch a literary lecture series that proves popular with the reading public.

Mary Louise Stong is appointed to the Library Commission, where she will serve for the next six years.

1983

Project Read, a program teaching adults how to read, is launched by the *Friends*. Olive "Babs" Waugh is its first director. Later, the Library will take over operation of the program.

1985

Attorney James W. Haas, a member of the *Friends* board, convinces the group to support a masterplan for the entire Civic Center. He writes Mayor Feinstein suggesting a new Main Library on Marshall Square while moving a museum into the old Main building.

Mayor Feinstein meets with City Librarian Frantz and commissioners Callanan, Stern and Stong. The mayor is skeptical of the Library's ability to raise significant private funds needed for a new building but listens to their arguments.

Book Buddies, a program using volunteers to read and tell stories to ill children in hospitals, is initiated.

Mayor Feinstein asks for a ten percent budget cut from the Library and other agencies to address a budget shortfall.

1986

Mayor Feinstein asks Deputy City Mayor Peter Henschel to form a task force to develop a Civic Center masterplan.

A report by consultants Becker and Hayes/Omni-Group criticizes the Main and calls for building a new Library next door on Marshall Square.

Hundreds of Library supporters meet at the Main Library and hear New York City Librarian Vartan Gregorian speak eloquently about the need for a new Main Library. It is the 25th anniversary of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.

1987

The Fire Marshal closes the stacks of the Main Library until 100,000 books are removed, calling it a fire hazard.

City Librarian John Frantz resigns, in part because he opposes building a new Main Library, believing that technology will reduce the need for physical storage space.

The *Friends* start organizing a political campaign, anticipating a bond issue for the new Main Library. (For leadership, see Box 1, *1988 Main Bond Campaign*).

A second study by Becker and Hayes/Omni-Group underscores the viability of Marshall Square for a new Library. Another study by consultant Skidmore Owings & Merrill recommends that the current Main Library be used as a museum.

Mayoral candidate Art Agnos advocates construction of a new Main Library, saying, "We've had enough studies and task forces. Let's act." He is elected in December.

Deputy Mayor Henschel asks Asian Art Museum chair Judy Wilbur if the museum would be interested in leaving Golden Gate Park and taking over the old Main Library building. The idea is controversial. Her board expresses interest but no commitment is made.

Ken Dowlin, one of the nation's leading advocates for the high tech library of the future, is hired as the new City Librarian. *San Francisco Examiner* columnist Bill Mandel suggests it will take "the Clint Eastwood of librarians" to succeed given all the politics and challenges.

In the final weeks of her term, Mayor Feinstein sends the Board of Supervisors a series of recommendations for Civic Center, including building a new Library on Marshall Square and turning the old Library into a museum. A construction cost estimate for the new Main Library is \$120 million, a record level for a city bond. Officials overseeing city bond issues fear it will never pass and reduce the proposed funding for the Main by \$15.5 million. They then add \$5 million back for branch remodeling, hoping it will increase political support for the bond.

Marjorie Stern begins discussions with various business and community leaders about forming a *Library Foundation* to raise needed money for the new Main.

She anticipates bond approval and knows that the bond will not cover fixtures, furniture and other upgrades. Many are skeptical about the Library's ability to raise money.

(For leadership, see Box 5, *Library Foundation & Main Campaign*).

1988

Mayor Agnos and the Board of Supervisors approve Proposition A for the November ballot, authorizing funds to build the new Main Library and to start branch renovations. They also approve Proposition N allowing the Asian Art Museum to take control of the old Main Library. Opponents of the Library bond say it is too expensive and it would be better to remodel the old Main.

Seventy-six percent of voters approve the bond for a new Main Library.

(For leadership, see Box 1, *1988 Main Bond Campaign*).

The Asian Art Museum agrees to make the old Main Library its new home. The Museum and the new Main Library share a champion. In the late 1950s, Marjorie Stern and a small group of Asian art enthusiasts convinced Chicago millionaire Avery Brundage to contribute his massive Asian art collection to San Francisco.

Marjorie Stern leaves the Library Commission and is named *Honorary Commissioner for Life* by Mayor Agnos.

A referendum allows collective bargaining for public employees. The Librarians Guild begins negotiating its first contract with the Library.

Budget problems force Mayor Agnos to propose cuts for various departments including the Library. A suggestion to temporarily close several branches meets strong community opposition. Eventually the Business Branch is closed but other branches are spared.

Mel and Charlotte Swig, major civic and philanthropic leaders, are approached about chairing the fundraising campaign for the new Main Library. They agree if an experienced foundation executive such as Martin Paley takes the Executive Director role. Paley agrees.

Philanthropist Ann G. Getty and Stanford Professor Emeritus John W. Gardner agree to be honorary co-chairs. Gardner, founder of Common Cause and HEW Secretary under President Lyndon Johnson, was a key architect of the Great Society.

Tagalog language collections are developed for Excelsior Branch and the Main Library.

1989

A committee of 25 community leaders, including Marjorie Stern, Mary Louise Stong and Mig Mayer, interview various architects for the new Main and recommend two firms working in association. The City approves the recommendation and hires Simon Martin-Vegue Winkelstein Moris of San Francisco, and Pei Cobb Freed & Partners of New York City. (For leadership, see Box 1, *Designing & Building the New Main*).

The challenge is designing a major new Library for the 21st Century replacing in essence a 19th Century building with outdated technology. At the same time, California's economy is in recession, the City budget is in the red and few believe the Library can raise millions of dollars in private funds.

Mig Mayer retires as Executive Director of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library. Jane Winslow is selected to replace her.

The Loma Prieta earthquake damages the old Main. The seven level book stacks with glass floors twist as the earth moves shearing some glass into long thick shards and dumping hundreds of thousands of books on the floor. The Library is closed. City building officials say staff cannot be ordered into such an unsafe space. Ignoring the danger, staff members volunteer to retrieve the books. The staff and 300 community volunteers then move the books to temporary storage space in an empty building in the Presidio. Repairs take several months.

When the Main re-opens, hundreds of people gather for a celebration, including a troupe of accordion players campaigning to make the accordion the official musical instrument of San Francisco. They succeed.

In support of freedom of speech, the Library hosts "*I am Salman Rushdie*" Day at the Main Library. Bay Area writers read excerpts from Rushdie's 1989 book *Satanic Verses*. Rushdie, Indian-born and a British citizen, has gone into hiding after the religious leader of Iran, Ayatollah Khomeini, declared the book blasphemous and called for his assassination.

Another difficult budget year forces the Library to cut services. As part of the reductions, the Library officially stops updating the out-of-date and labor-intensive card catalog, anticipating a state-of-the-art computer system in a few years.

The Library forms the *Council of Neighborhood Libraries*, giving activists a forum to voice their opinions about library policies. The group also takes an independent leadership role in fighting branch closures and the diminution of library services.
(For founding members, see Box 1, *Council of Neighborhood Libraries*).

1990

Sheet music collector Dorothy Starr dies, leaving a vast collection of 500,000 pieces of published music. The *Friends* purchase the collection from her estate for the Art & Music Department of the Library.

Design work for the new Main Library is underway. Because the Board of Supervisors had earlier reduced the bond size \$15.5 million, the architects and City officials eliminate one entire floor from the plan to stay within budget.

A public meeting is held at the Library for the Blind at the Presidio Branch to decide whether to relocate to the new Main Library. After vigorous debate, community leader Rose Resnick makes an impassioned speech to move to Civic Center. The group votes overwhelmingly to move.

Library Commissioner Ed Callanan, first appointed by Mayor Jack Shelley in 1964, steps down after 26 years of service.

1991

The Library Foundation begins public efforts to raise money for the new Main Library and the Chinatown Branch expansion.

A fundraising study by Charlie Howland suggests the Foundation will be unable to raise even \$20 million because California is in a recession and the Library has no existing donor base. Nevertheless, Mel Swig feels the Library needs more and increases the goal to \$25 million, with an additional \$5 million to start an endowment.

Over the next three years, the *Main Campaign*, as it will be called, raises \$36 million under the leadership of the Swigs and others.
(For leadership, see Box 5, *Library Foundation & Main Campaign*).

Chronicle Columnist Herb Caen proclaims that the new Library will henceforth be known as the *New Main*. Eventually the *New Main* periodical reading room will be named in his honor. One of his typewriters will be included in the collection.

The Library Commission adopts a *Five Year Strategic Plan* outlining new services for traditionally underserved communities, organizing around collections where there is broad public interest and developing more dependable sources of revenue.

Commission President Steve Coulter advocates creating a gay and lesbian historical archive, the first in a public library in the U.S. Leaders in the gay and lesbian community express strong support and help shape it. At a press

conference, Mayor Agnos, Coulter and others announce its creation. Author Randy Shilts says, "*We're losing far too many people to the AIDS epidemic—it's essential we not lose our history, too.*" (For leadership, see Box 5, *Gay & Lesbian Group*).

The Foundation supports the gay and lesbian archive but is concerned about raising money for one group when funds are needed for the entire building. The gay and lesbian organizing committee agrees to raise money for the Library as a whole as well as the archive, setting the tone for other campaigns.

Library Foundation Executive Director Martin Paley, facing a skeptical donor community, believes the Library is the most democratic of public institutions. He makes that principal the heart of the campaign. "*Many of the City's diverse communities have both the interest and capacity to participate in private giving for the public good,*" says Paley, "*but generally are not asked to do so.*" Paley asks them and the communities respond with enthusiasm. Many are involved in a great civic campaign for the first time.

This effort to recruit all segments of the community in the fundraising and organizing around collections and services becomes known as the "*Affinity Group*" campaign. The initiative is extraordinarily successful and creates an emotional depth to the campaign as different communities share their dreams, new collections and services develop with staff help, and a new sense of philanthropy blossoms in the community. As the campaign approaches the \$30 million mark, over 18,000 individuals and organizations have contributed. Around the country, other libraries and civic efforts adopt a similar model. (For leadership, see Box 5, *Affinity Group Campaign*).

The City's busiest branch, Chinatown, is scheduled to be upgraded and doubled in size. A fundraising campaign, linked to the Chinese American Center in the Main Campaign, is organized. Community leader Rosalyn Koo plays a key role in the fundraising for both and in helping the Library manage problems in the City's handling of construction and design issues relating to the branch. (For leadership, see Box 5, *Friends of the Chinatown Branch*).

The Main Library opens the "*Prides & Joys*" exhibit of rare books and fine print volumes in the collection. It is organized by printer Andrew Hoyem, Marjorie Stern and other book collectors and rare book enthusiasts.

Library activist Sally Brunn dies and the Library Commission re-names the Noe Valley branch in her honor in 1992. Shortly before her death, friends and officials hold an event to thank her for her years of service. She requests that it be a Library fund-raiser. Over \$15,000 is raised to buy more books on political activism, according to her wish.

Labor unions help the Main building effort. The Building and Construction Trades Council led by Stan Smith agrees to tear down the old USO building on Marshall Square as a gift to the Library. During World War II, the same union built the USO as a gift to American soldiers.

The Library acquires the 10,000-volume gay and lesbian pulp fiction collection of book collectors Barbara Grier and Donna McBride of Florida. Other historic materials are donated or loaned to the Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center over the next few years, including the Harvey Milk/Scott Smith Collection, archives from the *Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society of Northern California*, materials from Mattachine Society founder Harry Hay, author Randy Shilts and filmmakers Peter Adair and Rob Epstein.

1992

Ground is broken for the New Main Library on Marshall Square. Mayor Frank Jordan uses the same silver shovel used by Mayor James "Sunny Jim" Rolph to break ground for City Hall. Hundreds attend the ceremony.

The Library excavation uncovers part of the old jail and other rubble from City Hall when it collapsed in the 1906 earthquake. Also found are some hand bones and a wedding band, perhaps the last remains of the Yerba Buena Cemetery that once held more than 5,000 bodies and was removed in 1870.

The Library is again facing budget cuts and the economy is in a recession. With the cry of "*Find the Funds*," the *Keep Libraries Alive!* committee campaigns for more Library funding.

The *Friends* give the Library a new bookmobile to serve shut-ins and the elderly.

1993

Civic leader, philanthropist and co-chair of the Main Campaign, Mel Swig dies after a long illness. A few months earlier, Swig attends what will be his last Main Campaign rally. It is the emotional high point of the campaign. He listens as members of the *Affinity Groups* talk about what the campaign means to them and their communities, moving beyond symbolism to full participation in a great civic venture. An endowment is created in his name.

Another difficult budget year forces the Library to trim its book budget and hours.

A major political fight erupts when the Library proposes moving the Victorian era *Pioneer Monument* that sits at Hyde and Grove streets. It originally stood before the old City Hall that was demolished by the 1906 earthquake. Some historic preservationists fight the move, citing the statue's beauty and the historical relevance of the site; Native Americans call the statue racist. The Library Foundation pays to move the 800-ton monument to a site between the old Library and the new Main.

An anonymous group of donors offers to fund a program of the Library's choice. The Library accepts the offer and dramatically expands its telephone reference service.

1994

More proposed budget cuts mean dramatically reducing hours at some branches, further reductions in the book budget and staff reductions.

Mayor Jordan fires six of seven Library Commissioners in a budget dispute.

The Friends of the Library under the leadership of President Diane Filippi launch a ballot initiative for the Library to receive a minimal level of funding for books, materials and service hours to stop the boom and bust cycle of Library funding. When funds for the campaign run low, Mary Louise Stong loans the campaign money to continue the fight. Proposition E passes with over 70% of the vote. (For leadership, see Box 1, *Prop E Campaign*).

Friends for Life, a library volunteer program to bring books to those with HIV and AIDS who are housebound, is started.

The Library establishes Internet access and its initial Web site. It includes an online Community Services Directory of all San Francisco government agencies, community, neighborhood, health, human service and business groups.

Lessons learned from the Northridge earthquake in Southern California lead to re-welding critical joints in the New Main, which is still under construction. Sitting on rubber isolators that act as shock absorbers, the new building is designed to withstand an 8.3 earthquake.

The Library establishes a new program for people with dyslexia and other learning differences sponsored by the Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation and the Roberts Foundation.

1995

Because of Prop E funds, the book and materials budget triples in size and system open hours increase 46%. The Main Library begins its first serious inventory in decades. Branch libraries receive thousands of new books and staff begins weeding collections to make room for new materials.

At the end of the year, the old Main Library closes to the public. For the sixth time in its history, staff prepares to move the enormous Main collection, sorting through nearly a century's worth of accumulated materials. By hand and truck the collection is moved, this time just across the street. Tens of thousands of new books are purchased for the grand opening and tens of thousands more are donated by affinity groups and other organizations.

As librarians pull damaged, outdated or duplicate materials from the Main collection, a controversy erupts, foreshadowing rough times ahead. Critics allege that the Library is disposing of large numbers of books rather than move them to the new building. The Library administration defends the professional standards and judgment of staff. The argument escalates into a shrill debate on books and technology, tradition and change.

1996

Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. appoints a new Library Commission, replacing six of seven members. Sherry Agnos, honorary co-chair of the 1988 bond issue for the New Main, is appointed. Fran Streets, a retired banker and prominent civic leader, is retained.

Weldon Owen publishes *A Free Library in this City*, a history of the San Francisco Public Library by Peter Booth Wiley. The publisher donates the book as a gift to the Library commemorating the years of struggle to build the New Main.

In tents outside the New Main a special Family Day event draws 12,000 parents and children. Local celebrities, including actor Robin Williams, read their favorite children's stories.

Construction of the New Main is complete. It is one of the first major public buildings in the U.S. to incorporate many *green building* features. Special attention goes to indoor air quality and even the carpets use special adhesive materials to minimize indoor pollutants. It is the first building in San Francisco to have talking signs to assist sight-impaired patrons.

April 18, 1996. The new Main Library is ready to open. It is ninety years to the day since the great earthquake destroyed the old City Hall and the Main Library inside.

Thousands crowd Fulton Street between the old Main and the new, wrapping around the Pioneer Monument, and take part in the opening ceremonies. (For details, see Box 3, *New Main Opens*).

The first book checked out? Peter Wiley's "*A Free Library in this City*."

Fourteen thousand people come through the building on its first day, and the next, and the next. A million visit the building in just over three months. On weekends the doors have to be closed periodically and people asked to wait because the crowds are too large. Staff is overwhelmed but works hard to meet the demand.

The opening is not without problems. The complex seven level building opens with makeshift signs because the sign maker declares bankruptcy just before the

opening and never delivers the signage. The book conveyor system that delivers materials to the sorting room can't handle the volume and breaks down.

For an institution long starved for funding and civic attention, there is suddenly abundance on several levels: more public and private money; dramatic increases in new materials, collections and archives; a new online computer system to replace the old card catalog; heavy media attention; and massive crowds. San Franciscans are passionate about their Library, tradition and change and a lively debate rages for months.
(For details, see Box 4, *Debate on the New Main*).

Crowds set new service records. For the first year, Main circulation is up 71%, adult programming increases 705% and children's programming increases 224%. By the end of 1996, attendance levels out at 5,500 a day, seven days a week. Tens of thousands more visit the online web site, use Library databases or attend Library-sponsored functions.

Outside of the spotlight, the public expresses itself in different ways. One woman writes in the guest book of the Hormel Center:

"When I... looked at the ceiling mural entitled 'Into the Light,' I started to cry. A city institution actually making a statement that I am important, reaching out to me, saying that my history matters. It is so beautiful and so important."

The New Main holds its first three exhibitions. *Building the Library. San Francisco: The Dimensions of Diversity. San Francisco: The Politics of Inclusion.* All are funded by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Brooks Walker Patent & Trademark Center becomes one of five California sites designated as a federal patent depository library. It includes complete patents from 1790 to the present.

The Daniel E. Koshland San Francisco History Center contains more than 250,000 photographs dating from 1850. City records and photographs provide detail on thousands of homes and buildings.

A survey by the City Controller on what the public thinks of various government agencies lists the S.F. Public Library as the most respected institution and librarians as the most popular workers.

The Kresge Foundation International Center contains material in 40 languages with emphasis placed on materials in their original languages rather than translations. U.S. citizenship study guides are also available.

Chinatown Branch re-opens, twice as large as before. Lion dancers and hundreds of supporters attend the opening ceremony.

A new budget controversy develops. City Librarian Ken Dowlin, saying he is tired of the constant fighting and feeling that he has met many of his goals including building the New Main, resigns. Kathy Page, Chief of the Main, steps in as temporary City Librarian, the first woman to hold the position.

1997

The *Library Foundation* begins an annual *Library Laureates* dinner in the New Main, honoring leading authors from Northern California. Author Amy Tan and U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass are co-chairs of the inaugural event.

Mission Branch reopens after extensive remodeling.

The *Wallace Stegner Environmental Center* holds a series of public debates on environmental issues, underwritten by the Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund. Actor Robert Redford attends a press conference announcing the program.

Library computers prove so popular with the public that time limits are imposed at peak hours.

Regina Minudri, past President of the American Library Association, is named City Librarian, the first woman to hold the post on a permanent basis. This comes nearly four decades after she first worked at this Library as a page while going to library school.

Brave Little Girls exhibit opens, depicting young women heroines in children's literature. The exhibit will later receive the prestigious John Cotton Dana Award from the American Library Association.

The Library Commission authorizes a Post Occupancy Evaluation of the New Main to analyze ways to make the building more efficient.

The Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation merge into one organization, the *Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library*. Marjorie Stern, Deborah Doyle, Leslie Luttgens and others spend months working out details. The leaders of each organization, Margie O'Driscoll and Chuck Forester, are named co-Executive Directors.

The American Institute of Architects and the American Library Association present the New Main the *Award of Excellence for Library Architecture*.

1998

Mayor Brown proposes funding and building a new Ocean View Branch. The neighborhood strongly supports the project, providing ideas for services and helping raise funds for furniture and equipment.

Through My Father's Eyes: Pioneers of the San Francisco Filipino Community exhibit opens at the New Main. It eventually becomes part of a permanent Smithsonian Institute traveling exhibit.

"*City of Angels*," a movie about angels who live in libraries and look after people, films various sequences in the New Main. It stars Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan.

1999

Over 25,000 historical photographs from the Library collections are digitized and made accessible on the Library's website.

Email reference service begins.

A citywide survey shows 80% of San Franciscans believe that the Library system is clean, safe, has attractive buildings and a friendly and courteous staff.

Library records show 333 organizations and over 12,000 people use meeting rooms in the New Main this year.

2000

City Librarian Minudri steps down for health reasons and Deputy City Librarian Susan Hildreth becomes Acting Director. Hildreth will be named permanent City Librarian in 2001.

Proposition A, a \$106 million bond to build five new branches, upgrade 19 others for earthquake safety, electrical code upgrades, and access for people with disabilities is placed on the ballot after lobbying by the Friends & Foundation. However the amount approved by city officials is \$10 million less than what is estimated as necessary. The ballot measure passes with 74% of the vote.

The new Ocean View Branch opens, replacing a rented facility. It includes a computer-training center, a high priority for the neighborhood.

Friends & Foundation Board member Carlota del Portillo exhorts Library supporters to become "*Keepers of the Dream*" that brought the institution to where it is today, particularly the dreams and promises represented by the Affinity Group campaigns.

2001

New Main to New Millennium: Gifts and Acquisitions 1996-2001 exhibition features new archival and rare materials obtained by the Library since the New Main opened. It is one of ten exhibits at the Main this year.

Nearly five million people visit the San Francisco Public Library system in fiscal year 2000-01, checking out 6.3 million items. Millions more use library reference material or online services. Over 182,000 children attend special programs.

In four years the Library has four Chief Librarians, major increases in public usage, new systems for staff to learn, new ways to work, major controversies in the media and yet the system keeps going, a tribute to the skill and determination of staff.

Dale Carlson, a former Library Commissioner, steps down as President of the Friends and Foundation. He played a major role in numerous ballot measures, fundraising and policy debates. The California Library Association honors him for 13 years of leadership.

2002

Mary Louise Stong, a champion of public libraries for over a half-century, dies.

The Friends & Foundation, under new Executive Director Martin Gomez and Board Chair Deborah Doyle, begin work on \$16 million campaign to supplement the Prop A branch renovation bond because new furniture, fixtures and other needs are not covered by the bond.

The Library acquires a building on 9th Street to relocate the Technical Services Department that performs major book processing, repair and important back office functions now in the New Main.

The Library Commission approves a new branch in Mission Bay. When it opens it will bring to 27 the number of neighborhood branches.

The Main has ten new exhibits this year, drawing 70,000 visitors, including two on civil rights. *Speak Truth to Power* features portraits of people of all ethnicities and nationalities who have spoken up as human rights defenders. *Long Walk to Freedom* is a project of students at George Washington High School focusing on 12 civil rights activists of the 1960s.

One of the founders of the African American Center, Dr. Arthur H. Coleman, dies. A lawyer and Hunters Point physician for over 50 years, he was also a charter member of the Library Foundation. An endowment for the Center is created in his honor.

2003

The new Asian Art Museum opens in the old Main Library.

The Library purchases property for five new City-owned branch libraries, replacing rented facilities. Over the next decade, new branches will be

constructed in Mission Bay, Glen Park, Visitacion Valley, Portola and Ingleside and 19 existing branches will be upgraded. Design work for an expanded Richmond Branch is approved.

The Library Commission approves creation of this *Wall of Library Heroes* to capture the history of this institution and honor the many leaders over more than a century who rose from the community and fought for the values of a great public library. Their stories are a legacy that will inspire others.

We acknowledge Peter Booth Wiley and his book A Free Library In This City as a key source of material used in this history. We are grateful for his help.

This project was made possible by a grant from the Friends & Foundation of the San Francisco Public Library, 2003

Box 1 (Special Sidebar/Boxed area)

Friends of the San Francisco Public Library, 1961-62

Founding members of the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library include:

President: Alan K. Browne

Vice Presidents: General Edwin L. Johnson, David Magee, Jack Pollatsek and Marjorie Stern

Treasurer: William Mackey

Secretary: Mary Louise Stong

Board Members: John Bransten, Mortimer and Janet Fleishhacker, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. R. Gwin Follis, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Gerbode, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Haas, Lucille Mohr, Judith Pollatsek, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Schwabacher Jr., Mrs. Nion Tucker, George and Sally Williams, Mrs. Dean Witter, and Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Zellerbach.

Over the next year, the *Friends* board membership grows to include: Mildred Bell, Mrs. Donald Biggs, William Brinton, Mrs. Francis Carroll, William Coblenz, Hunt Conrad, Mrs. Richard Dakin, Mrs. Ralph Doscher, Robert Drewes, Dr. Frank Fenton, E.H. Gauer, Carlton B. Goodlett, M.D., George Johns, Gustav Knecht, Jr., Lewis Lengfield, Mrs. Robert MacDuff, Mrs. Alfred McLaughlin, Robert Marcus, William Monihan, Eugene M. Price, Alvin Rockwell and Nat Schmulowitz.

Friends Book Sale, 1964

Leadership for the first book sale include Hugh Cook, Ann Grace, Hilde Kolb, Erma Kuta, Joan Leaf, Elaine Mundy, Richard Reinhardt, Ken Train and Helen Louise Weinstein.

Main Bond Campaign, 1988

The *Friends* start organizing for the anticipated Library bond in 1987. Marilyn Smulyan is hired to build grassroots support. Sally Brunn of Keep Libraries Alive! lobbies the Legislature for a state library bond measure and finds Senator Milton Marks and others supportive. Volunteers are recruited to build public support, including community leaders Aileen Hernandez and Joanne Foo, attorney Fred Rodríguez and labor leader Steve Neuberger of SEIU Local 790. Once approved for the ballot, a formal bond campaign is formed. Sherry Agnos, wife of the new Mayor, and School Superintendent Ramon Cortines are honorary co-chairs. Dick Pabich runs the campaign with leadership from attorney James W. Haas, consultants Marilyn Smulyan and Robert Barnes and help from a Franciscan brother and Tenderloin neighborhood activist, Kelly Cullen. Hundreds of others assist the campaign effort.

Designing & Building the New Main

James Ingo Freed and Cathy Simon lead the design team with Project Manager Anthony Bernheim. Other members in leadership roles include City Librarian Ken Dowlin, Library Project Director Kathy Page and Library Commission President Steve Coulter.

San Francisco's Chief Administrative Officer Rudy Nothenberg leads the building efforts for the City with the help of project managers Russ Abel and later Jim Cheng. The General Contractor is Huber Hunt Nichols. Because the Library will be on the Civic Center Plaza, the Arts Commission oversees important design elements including the exterior of the building and its public art.

Council of Neighborhood Libraries, 1988

The original Council include the following: Jean Amos, Ann Anderson, Betsey Bannerman, Janet Berenson, Connie Blanding, Miriam Blaustein, Mary Jo Brazil, Sally Brunn, Bill Carpenter, Sue Cauthen, Angela Chen, Margaret Coughlin, Marcia DeHart, Mirian Gray, Andrew Grimstad, Mario Guzman, Virginia Hanley, Anna Ruth Kipping, Vernon Kipping, Carolyn Kleymeyer, Maylian Lee, Lucretia Levinger, DeEtte Loubell, Carol O'Toole, William Park, Jean Parrott, Susan Poole, Rebecca Radner, Martin Ravn, Marilyn Sachs, Sark, William Schaefer, Pat Speulda, Ruth Spolum, Carol Steiman, Landis Whistler, Naomi Williams, Colleen Wong, Amy Tan, Chune Lee, Harriet Fielding, Stephen Pantos, Judy Baston, Carolene Marks, Idelle Rubino, Eleain Fuchs, Richard Rafael, Jeanne Sommer, Morris Sachs, Quincy Norris, Susan Sobel-Feldman and Doris Sanchez.

Other members became active in the early 1990s: Judy Baston, Karen Bevelander, Karen Crommie, Dorothy Danielson, Ella Driscoll, Ellen Egbert, Tiffany Farr, Harriet Fielding, Barbara Gersh, Julie Kavanaugh, Caroline Kleymeyer, Marty Koshuba, Miriam Pavis, Larry Ware and Dr. Rose Resnick. Two Council members, Carol Steiman and Karen Crommie, later serve as Library Commissioners.

Prop E Campaign for Library Funding, 1994

The Friends of the Library launch a successful initiative to help stabilize Library funding and face significant opposition in their campaign. Leadership members include Friends President Diane Filippi, Mary Louise Stong, Carol Steiman, Dale Carlson, City Librarian Ken Dowlin, campaign managers John Whitehurst and Robert Barnes, pollster David Binder, David Spero and others. Steiman will later become a Library Commissioner.

(End of Box 1)

Box 2 (Special Sidebar/boxed area)

Art in the New Main

The New Main Library contains a variety of major art pieces, some obtained through the City program for new buildings and others donated by individuals.

Three major pieces are incorporated into the building as part of a city program for art in new buildings.

Artists Ann Hamilton and Ann Chamberlain take cards from a duplicate staff card catalogue; invite patrons to write their observations or favorite quotes on the cards, and then embed them on three walls in the building.

Artist Nayland Blake creates a 21st Century high tech list of California authors on a five-story wall behind the grand staircase. Called *Constellation*, it has the names etched in mirror and then reflected by a fiber optic light cable.

Between the fifth and sixth floors of the suspended glass reading room that juts into the Main atrium is a conical and surreal spiral staircase created by sculptor Alice Aycock. Hanging in a great open space nearby is *Cyclone Fragment*, a ghost projection of the spiral stairs.

Other major pieces:

As a donation for the opening of the New Main, muralists Charlie Brown and Mark Evans painted the domed ceiling of the James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center. The mural is entitled "*Into the Light*," featuring prominent gays and lesbians through history.

Guatemalan artist Emanuel Paniagua created a freestanding mural entitled "*Perhaps Better Voices (Talvez Mejores Voces.)*." It is commissioned by School Board member Carlota del Portillo and donated to the Library for the Latino/Hispanic Room in 1997. It is a visual representation of the history of Latin American writers including characters from the literature of the pre-Hispanic Maya, the poetry of a 17th Century Mexican nun, and the epic verse of Argentina's free-wheeling gauchos.

The "*Double L Excentric Gyrotory*" mobile sculpture by artist George Rickey is installed outside the New Main in 1997. Two 18-foot steel arms shaped like Ls pivot, independent of each other, in response to air currents. It is a gift to the city from art patron Carl Djerassi.

(End of Box 2)

Box 3 (Special Sidebar/boxed area)

New Main Opens, April 18, 1996

□ In a clear and soaring voice, Sara Von Davenport, a 14-year-old from Hunters Point, sings a cappella "America the Beautiful." □ An honor guard of construction workers who built the Library march on stage in hard hats and receive an ovation. □ Politicians, corporate executives, philanthropists, librarians and Keepers of the Dream speak to the crowd about the struggle to create the New Main. □ Surrounded by children from the Tenderloin, a storyteller, J. Peter Callendar, dramatically recounts the history of the Library. □ The children sing "Happy Birthday" on the first day of public life for the New Main. □ Beach Blanket Babylon's Val Diamond, wearing a giant hat with the New Main on top, sings "San Francisco." □ The San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra, conducted by Alasdair Neale, plays Aaron Copeland's "Fanfare for the Common Man." □ A plane circles high overhead and a man jumps out, parasailing onto Civic Center. He rushes to Mayor Brown, Charlotte Swig and others, and hands them a symbolic key. □ Two guards in Beefeater uniforms open the doors of the New Main. □ From inside the Library emerges a procession of characters from the book collections—the Three Musketeers, Sir Francis Drake, Mark Twain, Cinderella, Snow White, Marie Antoinette, Abraham Lincoln and a hundred others. □ The crowd rushes inside. □ Children hurry up and down stairs, checking out the bridges, books and the Children's Electronic Discovery Center. □ The Affinity Centers are crowded. □ Every computer is in use. Every chair is filled. □ People browse the book stacks and examine the public art. □ Crowds gather in the atrium. Many people are hugging with tears in their eyes. □ With Mig Mayer nearby, Marjorie Stern and Mary Louise Stong approach the counter to check out the first books. But Mrs. Stern has forgotten her Library card. Staff looks up her card number. A dream is realized. □

(End of Box 3)

Box 4 (Special Sidebar/boxed area)**Debate on the New Main**

The dramatic differences between the old and New Main libraries thrill many but startle others. San Francisco becomes the focus of a national debate on books, technology and the role of libraries in the 21st Century.

Supporters of the New Main say the building is inspiring, a great civic presence that completes the 1917 Civic Center master plan, succeeded against the odds and is now more diverse in its collections and services, better reflecting the populations it serves. Critics of the building say it is too modern, has too many computers, is too open and does not have enough space for books. A novelist announces that he has come to save the card catalog, claims the weeding of books was "a hate crime against the past" and leads what will become a high profile national crusade. Some demand that librarians never remove anything from the collections. Others argue that collections need to be managed to keep them relevant. The success of the private fundraising, seen as astonishing by many who believed it could never be achieved, is viewed by others as a kind of private takeover of a public service. Supporters say private donors bring opportunities for even greater public service as well as practical necessities such as chairs and tables. Meanwhile, libraries around the country seek to emulate the San Francisco fundraising model.

The New Main Becomes a Major Media Story

□ *"It will grow on us,"* writes the U.S. Poet Laureate about the outside of the building, adding that *"inside...is a marvel, so deeply delicious you forget your previous ideas of what a library is."* *"An ugly modern shopping mall"* fumes a critic of the building in a newspaper article. *"A Mall for the Mind"* writes *Newsweek*. *"A Wonderment to Discover"* for people with disabilities writes the *World Institute on Disabilities*. □ *"The curves and twists of stairs around the rotunda are enough to make a person dizzy,"* rages one letter in the *Examiner*. *"A dynamic, light-filled space as inviting as it is joyous"* writes *Art in America*. . □ *"A Trojan horse concealing an invasion force of private interests,"* writes a critic. □ *"Room for Imagination in a Temple of Reason"* headlines the *New York Times* architectural review.

The Mayor calls for a neutral third party audit to study some of the issues and cool tempers. An *Examiner* editorial gives this advice to all sides in this sometime shrill debate: *"Shush!"*

(End of Box 4)

Box 5 (Special Sidebar/Boxed area)**Library Foundation & the Main Campaign, 1987-96**

The initial founding members of the Foundation include: Ben Dial, James Edgar (Board President), Leslie Luttgens, Michael Mellor, Caryl and Peter Mezey, Ellen Newman, Martin Paley, Marjorie Stern (Board Founding Chair), Olive Waugh and Ann Witter. As work begins, membership expands to include: Mayor Art Agnos, Dale Carlson, Hector Chinchilla, Renee and Arthur Coleman, Steve Coulter, Carlota del Portillo, Ken Dowlin, Chuck Forester, Michael Garland, Ellen Huppert and Tatwina Lee.

Campaign co-chairs: Mel and Charlotte Swig

Honorary co-chairs: Ann G. Getty and John W. Gardner

Executive Director: Martin Paley

Affinity Group Campaign, 1991-94

Numerous community leaders stepped forward to take part and lead the effort to develop and help fund special collections of significant interest. Donor plaques are located inside the Library. Leadership of the Affinity Campaign includes:

African American Group

Co-chairs: Dr. Arthur Coleman and Renee Dorsey Coleman

Committee: Dr. Rena Merritt Bancroft, Jo-Ann Beverly, Barbra Boston, Kermit Boston, Geri Brown, Marguerite Browne, Diane M. Douchette, Frankie Gillette, Maxwell Gillette, Marion Greene, Barbara Heineback, Burl A. Toler, Doris M. Ward, Ph.D.

Children's Group

Honorary Co-Chairs: Doris Fisher and Charlotte Mailliard Swig

Kid's Day Co-Chairs: Becky Draper, Nancy Field, Katie Hall, Laura Kline, Kathy Nyrop, Millicent Powers and Wally Ward.

Committee: Linda Ach, Andi Arrick, Carla Baird, Ann Baldocchi, Diane Beaudet, Colurney Benoist, Bea Bowles, Nancy Dickson, Betsy Dixon, Mary Edwards, Therica Elliott, Lisa Feldman, Laura Fisher, Elizabeth "Randi" Fisher, Sako Fisher, Viviane Fort-Brescia, Sally Gerstein, Heather Gevertz, Katy Glass, Lisa Goldman, Maureen Halperin, John Handford, Roberta Holdlen, Leslie Hume, Colleen Kieselhorst, Kevin King, Marie Kirk, Sheila Larsen, Dawn Lehmann, Belinda Levensohn, Marilyn MacGregor, Jeannie Mitchell, Elaine Magnin, Lisa Moloney, Ira McEvoy, Betsy Nakamura, Carrie Ohly-Cusak, Caroline Orrick, Julie Parish, Paul Cince Pringle, Lisa Pritzker, Bill Rieser, Mary Ross, Jenny Schweich, Ellie Seddon, Maur Tavernetti, Kat Taylor, Sylvie Wada, Brenda Yee, Margaret Youngblood. Eventually the *Children's Center* will

be named in honor of the Don and Doris Fisher family, leading philanthropists and civic leaders.

Chinese American Group

Honorary Co-Chairs: Virginia C. Gee and Tom Hsieh

Co-Chairs: Tatwina Chinn Lee and Rosalyn Koo

Committee: Joan Chin, Anthony Tse, Patricia Chang, Lonnie K. Chin, Vyolet Chu, JoAnn Foo, Yvonne Go, Monique Go, Theresa M. Lee, Dr. Rolland C. Lowe, George Ong, George E. Sycip, Dennis Wong and Robert B. Wong.

Friends of the Chinatown Branch

Co-Chairs: Thomas Ng and Reverend Harry Chuck

Vice Chairs: Helen Chin and Rosalyn Koo

Committee: Dr. Thomas H. Gee, JoAnne Low, Anni Chung, Dennis Wong, Gwendolyn Woo, Norman Yee, Stan Yee and Matilda Young.

Environmental Group

Co-Chairs: Larry Blake and Jerry Tone

Committee: Beth Barker, Arden Bucklin, Virginia Coe, Mike Garland, Chris Desser, Catherine Fox, Annette Gellert, Harold Gilliam, Dian Greueneich, Jennifer Hernandez, Mike Herz, Mary Wallace Houghteling, Lauren Klein, Claire Griffin Lyddon, Wende Williams Micco, Claire Nelson, Will Parish, Beth Skelton, Suzane Schutte, Mary Stegner, Marjorie Stern, Georgiana Stevens, Elissa Van Deursen, Kirby Walker and Susan Watkins. Eventually the *Center* will be named in honor of the late Wallace Stegner, a California author and Pulitzer Prize winner.

Filipino American Group

Chair: Tony Gualberto

Committee: Poly Arzaga, Cip Ayalin, Jun Caba, Billy Camota, Flor Camota, Virgie Gulaberto, Sharon Jones, Cris Kabasares, Ernie Llorente, Severo Lozano, Dennis Normandy, Sofia Prudenciado and Lou Raymundo.

Gay & Lesbian Group

Co-Chairs: Diane Benjamin and Chuck Forester

Committee: The initial organizing and planning committee includes women's publisher Sherry Thomas, civic leaders Alvin H. Baum, Jr., Steve Coulter, Chuck Forester, Gary Gielow, Marya Grams, James C. Hormel, Dorrwin Buck Jones, and Robert W. Sass. It later expands to include: Diane Cane, Anne Casscells, Nancy Corporon, Mary Anne Courtney, Mario Diaz, Rosalinda del Moral, Leslie Ewing, Cynthia Gair, Nancy Gonchar,

Dewey Green, Roma Guy, James W. Haas, Amma Hawks, Lance Henderson, Lauren Hewitt, Patricia Holt, Mark Leno, Penney Magrane, Robert Oakes, Robert Reinhard, Vince A. Sales, Joseph B. Schubert, Don Spradlin, John Vasconcellos, Steve Vezeris and Jan Zivic. Eventually the *Center* is named in honor of James C. Hormel, a leading philanthropist, civic leader and, a few years later, the first openly gay man in U.S. history to be appointed as a U.S. Ambassador. Thomas and Forester will later become Executive Directors of the Library Foundation.

Latino/Hispanic Group

Co-Chairs: Carlota del Portillo and Fred A. Rodriguez

Committee: Gladys Aquino, Elena Asturias, Honorable Carlos T. Bea, Isabel Campoy, Ricardo D. Carmona, Ray del Portillo, Jaime Diaz, Rosemarie Fernandez-Ruel, Rose Guilbault, Nyla Gemple, Mary Hernandez, Sonia Melara, Gloria Ramos, Kenneth Romines, Manuel Rosales and Veronica Sanchez. The Latino/Hispanic group asks that a community meeting room, a place to bring people together, be named for their community.

(End of Box 5)

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